



Montana Natural History Center

Connecting People with Nature

120 Hickory Street

Missoula, MT 59801

406.327.0405

www.MontanaNaturalist.org

Position Title:	Early Childhood Education Naturalist
Position Category:	Full-Time, Seasonal (40 hours/week)
Salary:	\$15.00/hour
Duration:	May 29th - August 25th, 2023

WHO WE ARE

At the Montana Natural History Center (MNHC), we believe that nature-based education inspires connection to the outdoors, a love for the natural world, and in turn, stewardship. Put another way, our mission is to *promote and cultivate the appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of nature through education*. To achieve this mission, MNHC offers a wide range of programming to children and adults in Missoula and throughout Montana:

- Our Visiting Naturalists in the Schools program delivers an innovative, engaging curriculum for 4th-5th graders throughout the school year.
- We run and oversee the Montana Master Naturalist program in partnership with other organizations.
- Our museum features interpretive exhibits and gardens highlighting the natural history of Montana.
- We host distance learning programs for both youth and adults.
- Our staff lead adult classes on nature writing and natural history topics and lead guided outdoor programs.
- We run exciting homeschool and summer camp programs for youth in grades Pre-K - 8
- We publish the *Montana Naturalist* magazine and partner with Montana Public Radio to produce the *Field Notes* radio program.

Here at MNHC, connecting to nature is not a luxury, but a necessity. We strive to build capacity and fundraise. Doing so enables us to help serve all Montanans in our region and to engage our large community in MNHC programs.

WHO ARE YOU?

We value the benefits a diverse staff can bring to our organization. Whether you're an urbanite or mountain connoisseur from the east coast, west coast, North Pole, or Mars, you'll fit right in. Though we come from different places, our MNHC family is bonded by a deep commitment to our mission.

ABOUT MISSOULA

Missoula is a serene mountain town tucked away in the Northern Rockies of Montana, an outdoor enthusiast's dream! There are over 60,000 acres of wilderness to explore just minutes from downtown. Missoula's outdoor recreation opportunities make it an excellent location for getting outside. Enjoy hiking, kayaking, cycling, floating, backpacking, skiing, climbing, and more! Missoula has incredible local restaurants, shops, live music, and arts and culture events. It is full of families, students, and people who appreciate and care for the outdoors!

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ABOUT MNHC SUMMER CAMPS

MNHC's camps for kids Pre-K - 12th Grade combines experiential natural science education with outdoor fun and adventure. Camps include environmental education, exploration, projects, field trips to local natural areas, free play, games, and more. Every week is unique, so camp staff will gain broad experience in outdoor environmental education while exploring a variety of topics in natural history.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Have fun, get outdoors, and make a difference this summer while gaining valuable training and experience working in environmental education! The Early Childhood Education Naturalist will provide leadership and instruction for the full-day Summer Outdoor Discovery Day Camps Pre-K group at the Montana Natural History Center. Early Childhood Education Naturalist will facilitate and lead a variety of activities and themed camps, connect youth to nature, and explore the outdoors.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

I. Specific Responsibilities:

- a) Maintain MNHC's expectations for safety, education, and positive group dynamics.
- b) Facilitate and build Summer Camp activities and schedule as assigned.
- c) Actively engage with campers throughout the normal camp day and during before- and after-care as scheduled.
- d) Communicate effectively, professionally, and positively with guardians, MNHC staff, and campers on daily successes and challenges.
- e) Maintain program supplies and participate in keeping camp and storage areas organized.
- f) Supervise before- and after-care activities as scheduled to provide a safe and positive environment for children and build trust with their guardians.
- g) Work alongside a co-instructor to supervise, mentor, and lead activities for groups of up to 13 campers.
- h) Create a fun and educational camp week schedule with activities and lessons that will be available to you.
- i) Facilitate and build Summer Camp activities appropriate for early childhood education and schedule those activities as assigned.
- j) Build positive group dynamics and ensure a safe and fun learning environment.
- k) Engage in reflective teaching practices, work towards skill building for yourself, and support staff and campers in their growth.
- l) Drive MNHC's short bus from the Center to field trip locations or other campsites (Note: not all Seasonal Naturalists will be required to drive a bus, but it is preferred).

II. Required Qualifications

- a) An Early Childhood and Education credential.
- b) Experience in early childhood education and programming.
- c) Experience supporting a diverse array of young children's needs and behaviors.
- d) Work effectively as an individual and a team member.
- e) Flexible, positive, and solutions-oriented attitude and mindset.

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- f) Ability to thrive in an environment that is fast-paced, creative, and dynamic.
 - g) Current CPR/First Aid certification or willingness to obtain before the start date.
 - h) (For bus drivers only) Having a clean driving record to be verified by a driving record check.

III. Preferred Qualifications

- a) Experience participating in or teaching various outdoor and naturalist skills such as hiking, nature journaling, orienteering, citizen science projects, place-based knowledge of Montana, etc.
- b) Practical knowledge of methodologies in science and natural history education.
- c) Knowledge of local Montana flora and fauna.
- d) WFR, Lifeguard, and/or additional safety certifications.

IV. Reporting Relationships

Early Childhood Education Naturalist reports directly to the Camps Coordinator and Camps Coordinator Assistant.

V. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Montana Natural History Center is committed to building a diverse community that is inclusive of people from all backgrounds. The Montana Natural History Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, age, citizenship status, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, mental illness, or physical illness. This nondiscrimination policy applies to employees, volunteers, participants, and all aspects of our operations.

To apply, please send the following to agiffin@montananaturalist.org:

- Resume
- Cover letter
- List of three professional references.

Accepting Applications until the position is filled