



# Montana Natural History Center

## Connecting People with Nature

120 Hickory Street  
Missoula, MT 59801  
406.327.0405  
MontanaNaturalist.org

### MINI NATURALIST PRE-K PROGRAM INTERNSHIP JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Summary:** The Montana Natural History Center's miniNaturalist pre-K program engages young children in the exploration of the natural world through fun hands-on activities and games. Emphasis is on observation, sensory skills, and imagination, with the goal of cultivating a positive connection with nature at an age when children are just beginning to investigate the world around them.

Every session is filled with exciting new activities, art projects, and discoveries. Learn about the wild world of weasels or try to catch felt fish in your feet like an Osprey! We begin the program with stories, movement, and science inquiry activities as a group. After the group time, miniNaturalists and their caregiver can move independently among art, writing, science, and sensory stations. We also have a Kids' Discovery Room designed just for young learners with a touch table, puppets, and books.

This program is attended by young children, mainly under 4, and their parent or guardian. It takes place from 10:00-11:00 a.m. every Thursday throughout the academic year. The group time is held indoors. If desired, the intern can take families to the garden adjoining MNHC's building during the second half of the program.

An internship with the miniNaturalist pre-K program will provide experience in early childhood education, environmental education, and museum or nature center programming. Opportunities also exist for curriculum design and development.

#### **Specific Duties Include:**

- Delivery of a pre-K nature-based program by either using a provided template or creating/adding your own curriculum.
- Preparing materials according to the template or your own design each month.
- Reading stories aloud.
- Leading a nature based group activity with age-appropriate science content.
- Leading movements, songs, and/or rhymes.
- Interacting with families and young children.
- Arranging the Kids' Discovery Room to augment the monthly theme using MNHC materials and resources.

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and stewardship of nature through education*



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- General upkeep of materials.
- Working with the Community Programs Coordinator on program delivery and/or curriculum design.
- Ensuring a safe, clean, and educational learning space.

### **Qualifications:**

- Experience working with children.
- Ability to interact with the public and with MNHC staff.
- Interest in early childhood education and/or environmental education.
- Reliable, self-motivated, and flexible.

### **Preferred additional qualifications:**

- Experience working with pre-K children

### **Employment is conditional upon applicants:**

- Passing a criminal background check

### **Length of Commitment:**

- January - May 2019
- **Must be available 8:30-11:30 every Thursday**
- Approximately 3 hours/week, plus 5-10 hours at the start of each month to prepare materials

### **Benefits:**

- 2 UM credits
- \$500 stipend upon completion

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