

NATURALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves preparing and conducting diverse environmental awareness and nature interpretive programs through the use of a broad range of natural history disciplines. Conscious awareness of environmental relationships and concerns as well as the ability to speak effectively to groups/individuals at all ages is necessary. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of Nature Interpretation. Supervision is not a function of this position. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Plans, prepares and conducts environmental awareness programs for schools, civic and special interest groups and the general public in parks and other locations;
Evaluates and revises educational and informational programs as needs change;
Plans and prepares displays for the nature center and special programs;
Promotes environmental awareness programs through positive public and community relationships;
Inventories and protects environmental resources of the County park system that are of special value or interest;
Gathers information for programs and publications related to nature programs;
Provides field resource information for the development of nature trails;
Operates a variety of hand tools;
Requisitions equipment and supplies;
Keeps records of attendance, time sheets, correspondence and makes periodic reports;
Receives mail and/or phone requests for program dates to schedule groups;
Inspects nature trails for litter, vandalism and general appearance.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of a broad range of natural sciences including zoology, geology, botany and ecology as well as the ability to interrelate them;
Skill in communicating effectively with persons of all ages and abilities;
Ability to lead large groups in a presentation and group discussion;
Ability to follow moderately complex oral and written directions;
Ability to keep program records;

Good organizational skills;
Resourcefulness;
Initiative;
Courtesy;
Patience;
Tact;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in resource management, wildlife biology, natural science or a closely related field; OR
- B) Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma with a Bachelor's Degree in recreation which included at least 15 credit hours in the natural sciences; OR
- C) Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and four years of experience which involved the development and implementation of environmental awareness and natural history programs for the general public; OR
- D) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of A), B) and C) above.

NOTE: Degrees and credits in the following natural sciences will not be accepted: physics, chemistry, microbiological and genetics, or related subjects.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AT TIME OF APPOINTMENT: Possession of the appropriate level Motor Vehicle Operator's License.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT DURING THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD: Current certification as issued by the American Red Cross or equivalent in Standard First Aid and Basic Life Support CPR, as required by New York State Health Department, Chapter I of the State Sanitary Code, Subpart 7-2(Children's Camps), Section 7-2.8e.

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COMPETITIVE