



# Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

## NATURALIST INTERN POSITION

### **OVERVIEW**

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center conserves our land's diverse habitats on Lake Michigan and provides meaningful experiences and environmental education for all. Located nine miles north of downtown Milwaukee on the shore of Lake Michigan, the Center offers six miles of trails that take visitors through 185 unique acres of forests wetlands, restored prairies, ravines, bluff and a shoreline beach. Annually, Schlitz Audubon serves over 145,000 visitors and nearly 20,000 children who participate in our nature science programs. Over 150 children are enrolled throughout the school year in our nationally recognized Nature Preschool. In addition, thousands of adults and families attend our educational programs year round. The Center building received the first Gold LEED certification award in the State of Wisconsin. Schlitz Audubon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **PURPOSE OF THE POSITION**

*Schlitz Audubon is offering a paid internship position that will run the academic year (approximately September-May). The intern will have a minimum of rising junior standing toward a bachelor degree in education or natural science, with an interest in elementary education or environmental education. Working with the Center's outstanding team of Naturalists the intern will support educational programming at the Center in a variety of ways. This includes, but is not limited to, observing and assisting onsite school field trip programs, observing and learning to teach a variety of educational programs for school aged children, maintaining educational materials (furs, artifacts, taxidermy etc.). Majority of our classes are held predominantly outdoors, although some indoor activities do accompany our field trip programs. Intern will be expected to teach outdoors during inclement weather (rain, snow, cold etc.). Intern will also learn to work and teach with live animals (snakes, turtles and frogs).*

*Interns are expected to provide their own outdoor gear, although Schlitz Audubon has some seasonal gear available for long-term loan. The Schlitz Audubon Naturalist internship is a challenging and highly rewarding experience for anyone considering a career in conservation/environmental education.*

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- *Public speaking:* This internship provides interns the opportunity to become a proficient public speaker and educator. Our Naturalist Intern will teach students of all ages, group sizes and settings.
- *Critical and Creative Thinking:* Through this opportunity the intern will gain experience in problem solving in unique situations. Teaching outdoors allows for many variables day to day. As an intern you will gain the skills, knowledge and confidence in becoming an efficient and creative problem solver.
- *Effective Communication:* The selected intern will develop the necessary skills to communicate complex natural phenomena to people of all ages. Additionally, interns will learn how to communicate in the workplace.
- *Individual, Social, and Environmental Responsibility:* While working our education staff the intern will gain a deeper knowledge of the natural world around them. Through employment the intern will be given the opportunity to grow their own personal connection with nature while gaining understanding on how to be a better advocate for it.
- *Community Building:* The Intern will help educate underserved Milwaukee youth who rarely gain access to natural areas on the importance of our natural world and how nature and green spaces can benefit them.

## EVALUATION

- Intern will have goal setting meeting at beginning of internship, mid-year check in, and goal evaluation.
- The Intern will also have the opportunity for a monthly (or as needed) check-in with the School Programs Manager.

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Teach on-site environmental education programs both indoor and outdoor. May include weekends and evenings throughout the year (optional)
- Teach outreach education programs to schools, libraries, and community events throughout the Greater Milwaukee area
- Assist with secondary level programs as assigned
- Responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all participants in the group. This includes understanding and following safety rules and guidelines, carrying and using first aid kits and two-way radios, and administering First Aid and CPR as needed
- Handle and teach with live reptiles, amphibians, and arthropods; assisting with their care as needed
- Encourage students to be responsible environmental stewards, generate enthusiasm, and learn the value of the natural world

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Knowledge and understanding of environmental education and the ability to implement and effectively share that knowledge with children at age appropriate level
- Excellent written and oral communication skills including the ability to communicate and respond to both internal and external customers professionally and in a timely manner
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to multi-task, prioritize, and work with frequent interruptions. Must have the ability to professionally respond to variations in schedules and plans
- Must have the creativity, flexibility and understanding necessary for working with children, parents and staff members
- Ability to quickly respond to unsafe conditions which may put students at risk
- Requires a valid driver's license with a driving record that meets the qualifications of the organization
- Proficient with MS Office software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook) and the willingness and ability to learn other software packages as needed
- Ability to perform tasks requiring physical exertion, outdoors, in all weather conditions and on difficult terrain
- Must be able to work flexible work schedules including weekends and evenings throughout the calendar year

### **Physical Demands**

*The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*

Periods of sitting at a desk and working on a computer. Must be able to travel and freely move around the Center and off-site locations. On occasion, may be required to stoop, bend or reach above the shoulders. Must have the ability to frequently lift up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift up to 35 pounds. Must have the ability to speak and hear.

## **HOURS AND DURATION**

- 10-20 hours per week (hours flexible with intern schedule)
- Typical operating hours are M-F 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Anticipated start date September 1<sup>st</sup> – end of UWM school year

## **SALARY**

\$12 per hour