**Position:** Nature & Science Summer Camp Leader

**Hours:** 30 hours/week

**Work Term:** June 19th to August 31st, 2023

**Compensation:** $18.00/hr

**What We Do:** This is our 11th year offering nature-based summer day camps at the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre in Cowichan Bay. The Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre is an educational interpretive centre in the Cowichan Estuary, a 400-hectare estuarine ecosystem. The Nature Centre offers hands-on programming for school groups, youth and the general public, plus summer nature and science camps, creatively engaging camp participants from 5 to 9 years-old in learning activities related to nature, our local estuary, watersheds and ecosystems, conservation and restoration, and citizen science. Visitors and program participants can view marine and intertidal creatures in our aquarium and observation tank; use our microscopes, telescopes. and interactive displays, and learn about wildlife along our estuary interpretive trail, from our viewing tower and through hands-on science projects. The Nature Centre is kept open to the public by a dedicated team of volunteers. Educational programs are led by professional nature interpreters assisted by volunteers.

**Job Description:**  Nature & Science Summer Camp Leader

The role of the Summer Camp Leader is a hands-on, energy intensive position focused on co-leading hands-on nature and science-based camp activities and play, primarily outdoors, especially important due to continuing Covid-19. The Summer Camp Leaders will assist the Summer Camp Coordinator in final preparations for the summer nature & science camp programs including program activities, learning outcomes, and schedules. They will be supported by the Nature Centre Coordinator, mentored by the Camp Coordinator and by Nature Centre volunteers and local naturalists in understanding the estuarine environment in which they will be working and related environmental issues, topics, and concerns to support them in delivering a locally focused summer nature and science camp.

June: The two Summer Camp Leaders may assist in the delivery of a program to school aged children visiting the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre. Other duties will include assisting the Camp Coordinator in developing activities and schedules for the summer camps to be delivered in July and August.

July & August: Together, the Summer Camp Leaders, along with the Summer Camp Coordinator, will be the team delivering the summer science and nature camps for groups of up to 12 children, including arts, crafts, games, and science-based activities for children from 5-7 and 7-9. A Summer Camp Leader may also occasionally assist the Coordinator with public education events for families, seniors, and tourists.

**Duties**

* Assist the summer camp coordinator in developing and planning curriculum, including arts, games, crafts and science-based activities.
* Co-lead summer science camps for groups of children each week, including preparation and clean up.
* Take responsibility for the welfare and learning of students, including reviewing campers’ medical forms and releases prior to each week’s camp, setting behavior limits and ensuring safe and appropriate camper behavior as needed, and within the camp’s Covid-19 health and safety protocols.
* Deliver community education and awareness-raising programs, such as nature walks and school programs.
* Help prepare publicity and promotional materials.
* Organize and maintain camp supplies.
* Support youth volunteers for the Nature Centre.
* Perform other general office duties including answering phone, email and in-office inquiries.
* Be available for occasional weekends and evenings as needed.

**Qualifications:**

* Accountable, enthusiastic, adaptable, and self-starting.
* Passion for working with children and youth.
* A love of the outdoors, play and hands-on activities.
* Experience working with children and youth, managing behaviors and creating safe spaces to foster learning.
* Ability to work independently and as part of a team within a non-profit organization.
* Excellent oral and written communication skills; comfortable interacting with the public.
* Willing to ask for help and accept feedback.
* Computer skills in a Microsoft Office suite, social media and website maintenance an asset.
* Applicants must be between 15 and 30 years old.
* Preferably studying or demonstrated interest in one of the following fields: Education, Child and Youth Care or associated degrees; Biology, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Environmental Sciences or associated degrees.
* As per the national priority to improve access to the labour market for youth who face unique barriers, preference will be given to **young women in the sciences who are currently enrolled in or aim to be enrolled in post secondary studies in science, or whom are currently pursuing a career in the sciences,** and all genders welcome to apply.

First Aid certification is a requirement and training will be provided if needed.

**How to Apply:** Please submit a cover letter and resume by **11:59pm May 15th** via email, mail or in person to:

**Alison Adamson**

**Coordinator  
Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre**

**Box 5 Cowichan Bay Rd  
Cowichan Bay, BC V0R 1N0**

**Email: alison@cowichanestuary.ca**

**Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre thanks all applicants for their interest. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Positions are subject to Canada Summer Jobs funding.**

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