



Position: Forest School Educator & Administrator

Organization: Rivers to Ridges

Location: Whitehorse, Yukon

Program Overview

The Nest is a new Forest School program serving young children aged 3-5, and run by Rivers to Ridges. We encourage learners to develop a deep sense of place through understanding their role in the natural world. Our teaching is guided by the local landscape, and we work to customize our programming around learners' passions and seasonal changes. We aim to build a foundation for a healthy start for children by fostering a deep sense of curiosity and by holding space for significant amounts of outdoor, child-led exploratory play.

Job Overview

We are looking for an engaging, creative and dynamic individual to join a small team with Rivers to Ridges at The Nest. You will join our small and intimate team of educators at The Nest! We are looking for someone who takes initiative and is a self-starter. In the lead up to the program start in Fall 2020, you will be supporting promotion and registration and working within a budget to compile program resources. The Rivers to Ridges team will support you throughout this process. Once the program begins, you will take on the role of co-educator, and will share the responsibility for bringing the program to life for young children age 3-5 each day when The Nest is in session. During program sessions, you will be present and focused on the children's safety and experience. You will prioritize regular routines, consistency, and outdoor exploratory time in all seasons including Yukon winter conditions. After program sessions, you may be engaging with parents/guardians, debriefing with other staff, gathering and maintaining program materials, preparing for the next day, and other tasks as they arise. The ideal candidate will be self-motivated and organized, passionate about outdoor learning, and able to reach out to children and create a relationship based on mutual trust and mentoring support. The goal in this position is to help start up and sustain a program fostering curiosity in young children, and to be a dedicated ally in the process of wilderness learning.

Responsibilities

Late August/Early September 2020 - In the lead up to the start of the program, there will be a focus on organizational on-boarding, and program administration and set-up.

September/October 2020 - June 2021 Once program starts you will be expected to work Monday to Friday, 8 am - 4 pm (program from 8:15am to 3:30pm), as well as additional coordination hours when needed. You will work alongside a co-educator, and will often have additional support (volunteer, other staff & helpers) on the ground when working with a group of children. Program will be closed for:

- All Yukon school holidays (excluding PD days) and Canadian statutory holidays.
- Two weeks over Christmas break (as per the school calendar).
- Two weeks in March (as per the school calendar).
- Summer holidays (as per the school calendar).
- Up to 3 PD days a year.
- Up to 7 days a year for sick/emergency closures.

Administrator Position

Support coordination of major aspects of program administration, which may include aspects of the following:

- manage ongoing communication with parents/guardians
- promote the program via email, social media, radio, etc.
- support program registration for families
- manage a budget for purchasing program resources
- other related responsibilities as needed

Educator Position

Co-create forest preschool programs for children which may include aspects of the following (and other duties as required):

- design and execute daily routines and plan appropriate creative outdoor learning experiences for children
- liaise respectfully with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and other visiting guests
- collaborate and work respectfully alongside other educators to plan program flow, details, daily plans, etc.
- differentiate learning approaches for children based on a variety of needs
- use skills-based instruction, as well as an awareness-building approach, to teach topics ranging from shelter-building, wildlife tracking, bird language, storytelling, wild harvesting, sensory training, plant identification and more. Knowledge of each of these topics is not necessary, however, willingness to learn and research is crucial.
- create educational content as needed (carving, building, photocopying, etc.)

- participate in regular staff culture circles
- use Rivers to Ridges equipment and materials with care; support with maintenance
- enrich outdoor teaching skills and knowledge through independent and/or collaborative research
- observe and understand learners' behaviour and psyche and report suspicions of neglect, abuse, etc.
- listen to and work to honour the needs of parents/guardians
- other related responsibilities as needed

Requirements

- 3+ years experience successfully coordination and program planning experience (including managing a budget)
- Level 1, 2, or 3 Early Childhood Education designation or equivalent related experience
- Recent successful experience working with children 3 - 5 years of age in a child care environment demonstrating/modelling healthy and positive behaviours
- Proven experience and interest working creatively outdoors with young children with a range of abilities and backgrounds
- Recent experience planning, developing and implementing a variety of recreational, social, life skills and/or parenting programming and activities for young children
- Experience working effectively in a team environment
- Demonstrated work ethic and the ability to maintain professional confidentiality
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Well-organized and able to be part of a teaching team

Note: An equivalent combination of education and experience in the above areas will also be considered.

Benefits of Employment

- Join a small team of passionate outdoor learning professionals
- Access unique professional development opportunities
- Work with a nationally recognized and supported program
- Have office access working out of Northlight Innovation Hub
- Enjoy significant outdoor time in your job
- Earn a competitive salary
- Possibility of more work opportunities with Rivers to Ridges in the future

Conditions of Employment

- Current (within 6 months) clear Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Basic CPR-C First Aid Training or willingness to acquire

Compensation

The wage depends on level of education and experience and ranges from \$21.50 to \$26.50 per hour.

Application

Please send in your resume and cover letter to info@riverstoridges.org by **Friday, August 21 2020**.

Organization Overview

Rivers to Ridges believes that deepening our connection to the natural world is crucial for healthy bodies and minds. When we have a strong relationship with the natural world, we have healthy relationships with ourselves and our community. We design, deliver and support programming focused on outdoor and land-based education for children and youth. Our organizational philosophy is built on concept nature mentorship, working alongside children to deepen empathy, awareness and community. Our year-round programs are based out of Whitehorse, Yukon, on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council. Learn more about us on [our webpage](#).

Thank you to all applicants. Please be aware that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.