

Naturalist

Position Summary:

The Florida Headwaters Foundation is looking to hire a Naturalist-Educator who will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day activities of the Sunbridge Environmental Education Program. This position will include, but not be limited to: coordinating, marketing, and teaching Nature programs and curating Exhibits from the 30ft long Mobile Nature Center for community residents and local school groups, support community resident engagement initiatives, such as bird house trails, consulting community residents creating backyard habitats using native plants, leading nature walks for community residents of all ages through pristine nature preserves, and management of natural and common areas. During the first year, a Senior Consultant will provide training and organizational support with curriculum and exhibit development.

Responsibilities:

Education

- Teach a wide variety of nature and science lessons to community residents and school groups using the resources of the nature center.
- Train volunteers to assist with nature programs given to school groups.
- Conduct nature walks for small groups in the community's natural areas.
- Conduct boat nature trips on the community's natural lakes.
- Make home visits to recommend which native plant species should be used for yard landscaping.
- Organize and assist volunteers with nature-focused community engagement projects such as birdhouse trails, native plant gardens, iNaturalist projects, and/or creating a community bird club.
- Exhibit coordination for nature programs, including taking care responsibilities for live amphibians and reptiles.

Land Management Assistance

- Assist with biodiversity surveys of the natural areas.
- Assist with making recommendations on how to best manage natural and common areas.
- Work with community staff to establish new nature trails where needed.

Administrative

- Social Media Content creation highlighting programs and areas relevant to the Nature Center's activities.

- General administrative planning and budgeting for educational programs.
- Participate in the writing and preparation of program catalogues, informational materials, and educational resources.
- Scheduling coordination with Sunbridge for accurate timing of community related events and activities.

Skills & Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Science or Environmental Education and a minimum of five years of experience as a naturalist and interpretive environmental educator; or a Master's Degree and a minimum of two years of experience as a naturalist and interpretive environmental educator.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to be a team player.
- Self-Starter that can work efficiently with minimal supervision.
- Bilingual in Spanish is a plus but not a requirement.
- Excellent communication skills and can engage with groups.
- Proficient at identification of common flora, fauna, and habitats of central Florida.
- Proficient at leading outdoor activities including boating, kayaking (good swimmer), night nature walks, and driving a pick-up truck pulling a trailer.
- Be in excellent physical shape to be able to accomplish the demands of the job.
- Comfortable working with "nuisance" wildlife such as snakes, small alligators, spiders, and rodents.
- Ability to successfully manage and train volunteers and volunteer groups
- Valid Florida Driver's License
- First-Aid & CPR Training Certification (can be earned after hire)
- Criminal Background Check

Working Conditions:

- May require extended times in the field, including during hot, humid, buggy summer days.
- Requires physical dexterity, including walking on uneven terrain off trails, and the ability to lift 50 pounds.
- Involves some weekend, evening, and holiday commitments.

Compensation:

The position will pay a competitive salary and benefits including health insurance and retirement plan.

To apply, please submit: a cover letter that highlights your interest in this position, your relevant experiences, and your experience working in a team setting; a resume/CV; and the contact information for three references. Submit your application materials – preferably as a single PDF document – to ***bdacontact@bda-inc.com***.

Review of applications will begin on December 15. The start date is flexible, but we hope to have someone join our team by March 1st.

About:

Coming to life on 27,000 acres in Central Florida between downtown Orlando and the Space Coast, Sunbridge is a regional scale, multi-decade initiative in the early stages of development and is the latest community from Tavistock Development Company, the creators of Lake Nona. Sunbridge is a fresh approach to regional growth. A place that thoughtfully mixes residential, recreational, and business uses with large stretches of Florida nature. The Florida Headwaters Foundation was formed to support Sunbridge in creating a lifestyle and culture that protects the environment by preserving natural habitats and local native biodiversity, conserving water, protecting water quality, and reducing waste sent to landfills.