

NATURALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, the incumbent is responsible for the operation of the County's nature centers and historic sites, including professional staff, program and site management and maintenance. The incumbent supervises the nature museums, arboretum, nature trails, summer nature camps and various conservation studies and activities. The nature centers, environmental programs, camps, etc. are designed to promote environmental awareness and respect. Considerable technical skill and independent judgment must be exercised. Supervision is exercised over professional, technical and labor employees. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Directs all personnel, programs and events at the County nature centers and historic sites;

Oversees and manages budgets for the County nature centers, historic sites and all Conservation Division programs;

Directs the acquisition and distribution of supplies and maintenance work for all Nature Centers, historic sites and conservation programs and directs labor and technical work necessary for the maintenance of trails and facilities;

Prepares funding proposals, budgets, and directs the maintenance of records and other work activity reports;

Researches and prepares lectures and talks on nature and the environment for organized groups and answers information requests and provides technical assistance to community groups and individuals;

Initiates, plans, organizes, coordinates and implements special nature and environmental programs and events to interpret the ecology of the County;

Prepares, organizes and writes brochures, news releases and publicity material;

Develops, promotes and maintains nature trails, arboretums and field nurseries, nature centers, etc.;

Assists local communities and groups in developing educational programs to create a greater interest in the environment.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the principles and practices of management and budget; good knowledge of the principles and practices of environmental education; good knowledge of the basic principles of geology, zoology, ecology and botany; ability to train and supervise; ability to administer, train, supervise, plan, develop, coordinate and communicate effectively; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; good professional judgment; initiative; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Masters Degree* in Environmental Education, Horticulture, Floriculture, Forestry, Biology, Botany, Geology, Environmental Science or related natural science field and 6 years experience in the management of environmental education programs, or a natural science facility, such as an interpretive farm, a nature center, a botanical garden.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.