

NATURALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the supervision of the Superintendent of Recreation, an incumbent of this class develops, promotes, organizes and presents educational programs, projects and exhibits concerning nature, conservation and the environment at schools, camps and/or a municipal nature center. An incumbent may also prepare conservation education programs for local civic and conservation committees. The Naturalist operates and maintains a municipally owned nature center and is responsible for the development and improvement of the natural area surrounding it. Supervision is exercised over the work of volunteers and municipal staff. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Establishes and maintains an active nature and conservation program in cooperation with the local schools and community organizations to foster hands on learning about the environment and natural resources;

Prepares and presents educational programs for various age groups on topics related to nature, ecology, etc. that on occasion incorporate supplies and equipment i.e. microscopes, aquatic tanks, etc.;

Provides instruction in such areas as environmental science, environmental issues, ecosystems, natural and local history, sustainability, team building, etc;

Plans, supervises and/or constructs conservation education displays and exhibits;

Makes recommendations to supervisor on program needs and resource allocation;

Assists with fund raising activities supporting initiatives of the nature center;

Plans, cares, and maintains a nature center wildlife sanctuary, trails, equipment and facilities;

Acts as a consultant to other municipal agencies as to tree planting, water quality and beautification programs as assigned;

Trains and supervises volunteer workers who assist with nature studies and improvement of the natural area;

Maintains records of programs held and number of students participating;

Uses computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the principles of the natural sciences; ability to use the equipment related to the natural sciences and interpret scientific data; ability to plan, develop and conduct programs for groups of all ages; ability to plan, develop and supervise the construction of nature paths, walks and trails, ability to prepare and create scientific arrangements, displays and exhibits; ability to train and supervise assistants; ability to inspire others to become interested in the natural sciences; ability to talk before large community groups; ability to write technical reports; ability to develop, maintain and promote excellent public relations; ability to perform some manual labor; ability to effectively use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software; ability to read, write, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential functions of the position; good professional judgment; imagination; initiative; resourcefulness; good moral character; physical condition commensurate with the duties of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Graduation from a recognized college or university with a Bachelor's Degree* including at least 24 semester credits in natural or biological science or in natural resources conservation courses and either: (a) two (2) years of experience in conservation education, outdoor interpretation, or other natural science work, which involved working in camps, classrooms, or other group activities; or (b) a Bachelor's Degree* in a natural or biological science or in Natural Resources Conservation and one year of experience as indicated under (b).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: At time of appointment, possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in New York State. The appointing authority is responsible for verifying and ensuring that candidate meets these conditions at time of appointment and throughout the course of employment.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.

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

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J.C.: Competitive
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