



Job Description: Lead Co-Teacher of Awbury Nature Days

Employment type: Part-time, 21 hours/week

Reports to: Rachel Schwartzman, Director of Awbury Nature Days

Regular hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30 - 1:30 (plus 1 hr weekly after school meeting)

Location: Awbury Arboretum

About Awbury Nature Days:

Awbury Nature Days is a nature-based fully outdoor half day program for children ages 3-5 located in Awbury's magical AdventureWoods. We learn through exploration and play in the ever changing landscape of the woods. A deep connection to nature, mindfulness and community are at the heart of this joyful Reggio-inspired program. This is the pilot year of the program, and our aim is to expand our numbers and impact in the years ahead. We are committed to growing the culture of outdoor nature based education in Philadelphia, and seek to serve diverse families from the local community. For more info about Awbury Nature Days, visit: <https://awbury.org/nature-days/>

We are 100% outdoors in the forest, with one cohort of 10-12 students plus two teachers. School runs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9- 12:30. In addition to keeping our cohort smaller and working/playing 100% outdoors, we will be following PA child-care guidelines for Covid-19 prevention and response. If closure is necessary, we will provide a hands-on remote curriculum.

Awbury Nature Days is a new program of Awbury Arboretum's education offerings. The arboretum includes a vibrant 55-acre historical landscape and house in the heart of Germantown, Philadelphia. It is a treasured community resource, offering a wide range of programs and events. For more info on the arboretum, visit awbury.org.

Position Overview:

Awbury Nature Days seeks a teacher who is reliable, energetic, kind, creative and attuned to the emotional and physical needs of young children. This teacher will participate in our 100% outdoors, nature-based, Reggio inspired program and is deeply excited to work with children in nature. As a co-lead, this teacher will collaborate with a partner teacher in the daily life of the school and ongoing creation of a meaningful emergent curriculum.

Should the school be required to close due to Covid-19-related issues, the teacher will help create and design remote learning experiences. This position requires 21 hours per week beginning late August 2021.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of BA in early childhood education or education or related field
- Experience and skill in caring for children ages 3-5 in a group setting (lead teacher experience preferred)
- Experience with child-centered play-based education. Has knowledge of the Reggio Emilia approach (preferred) or another progressive early childhood approach (or be willing to learn)
- Prior experience and/or deep excitement and interest in nature and nature based education in all kinds of weather
- Strong communication and collaborative spirit
- A flexible and open-minded personality
- Experience attending to children's individual well-being and hygiene
- Attuned to children's emotional needs, and use of positive, appropriate and supportive language
- Ability to carry materials in and out, as well as ability to lift a child if needed (50 lbs)
- CPR and background check
- Experience in working with children and mindfulness, music, arts or creative movement are a plus
- Background knowledge in local biology, flora and fauna is a plus

Responsibilities:

- Plans, creates, organizes and cares for materials and activities directly related to nature based curriculum
- Collaborates to implement site-specific nature based, emergent early childhood curriculum for children 3-5 years old.

- Maintains a safe outdoor environment through regular risk assessments
- Attends to the care and health related need of the children using best practices and a responsive approach
- Daily observation and documentation of children's learning, including ongoing contributions to child portfolios
- Participates in communication with families including weekly updates, parent conferences, and social media posts
- Weekly planning meeting with co-teacher
- Attending professional development regularly to deepen practice
- Commitment to all Covid safety requirements
- Delivers meaningful remote learning experiences as needed, in collaboration with co-teacher
- Attends and co-implements seasonal family events for families

Compensation and Growth Potential:

Compensation \$20 per hour.

The co-lead teacher will play an important role in shaping the culture and practice of this pilot program, with potential to grow in terms of leadership, salary, and hours in the following years.

To Apply: Please send resume and cover letter to Rachel Schwartzman at naturedays@awbury.org.