Awbury Arboretum Job Opening: Field Studies Director

About Awbury Arboretum: Awbury Arboretum is a 56-acre public park in the East Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, with 40 acres of rolling meadows, woods, creek, ponds, a natural materials playground, and 16 acres of farmland and cooperative gardens.

About the Awbury Field Studies Program:
Awbury Field Studies are experiential, educational, and hands-on STEM lessons for schoolchildren aged 3-14 (we may add high school lessons if we can find qualified Educators). Visiting school, daycare, homeschool and camp groups choose a lesson from a menu of topics (water systems and pond, animal habitats, trees, etc), and are taught basic vocabulary and scientific concepts, then allowed to use them independently while investigating scientific phenomena or collecting data. Lessons will comply with state educational guidelines for science education (STEELS) in Pennsylvania, but will be structured in such a way that they resemble standard classroom teaching as little as possible. The goal will be to make science a vibrant, real, and exciting experience for children, challenging them to use their powers of observation and their mental resources to figure out relationships between animals, plants, the environment, and human beings, and to make them conscious of their own stewardship of nature and the land.

About the Field Studies Director position: Awbury is seeking a part-time Director to develop curriculum for Awbury Field Studies, to oversee the running of the program, and to hire and train Educators for their role in teaching the visiting school groups. Depending on the size of the group, there will be 2-3 Educators for each group, so that the children can be divided into activity groups. The Field Studies Director will work with Awbury's Youth Education Director to develop programming for both the Arboretum side and the Farm side of Awbury. The Field Studies Outreach Manager will report to the Field Studies Director and is responsible for school outreach, scheduling, and logistics.

Job Title: Field Studies Director

Status: Part-time (20+ hours/week), depending on how many field trips we are able to arrange. There will also be ample time to design curriculum, order supplies, and create visual guides for lessons.

Reports to: Education Director

Time frame: Awbury's Field Studies program runs year-round, with approximately 1-3 two-hour visits a week depending on the weather and time of year. Summer field studies take place about once a week and lessons are much less age-targeted, since visiting groups tend to consist of mixed ages.

Pay: $22-$24 per hour

Location: Awbury Arboretum, 1 Awbury Road, Philadelphia, PA 19138

Qualifications:

- **Education:** Undergraduate college degree or master's degree or equivalent
- **Experience:** Must be 25 or older. A minimum of three years of experience working with children in a school setting as the primary teacher *or* in community-based programming for youth as the lead instructor. A background in science, education, or environmental studies is desirable.
- **Skills:** Must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills; ability to build strong relationships with children and teens; ability to lead and to improvise if necessary; ability to create and implement syllabi that are both educational and engaging for a variety of age groups.
- **Abilities:** Must be able to walk and stand for up to 2 hours, kneel, teach outdoors in varying weather conditions (heat, humidity, rain, etc.)
- **Other:** Must have commitment to racial, economic, environmental and social justice; respect for people of all cultures, backgrounds, abilities and gender identities; a passion for working with youth
- **Requirements:** Must be able to pass all background checks as required by Awbury Arboretum.

There is the option to combine the roles of Field Studies Director and Camp Co-Director to create more of a full-time position.

The Awbury Arboretum Association is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. BIPOC candidates and candidates from marginalized communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please send your résumé and a compelling cover letter to hsecrest@awbury.org for consideration.