

DIRECTOR OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN POSITION

JOB DESCRIPTION

Organization: The arts kindle a summer of fun at Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts where each day is a new opportunity for students to explore their creativity and make friends on an inspiring 140-acre woodland campus. Since opening in 1968, Usdan has introduced more than 40,000 children and young adults to the arts. Usdan's mission is to develop artistic talent and foster a lifetime of imagination, industry, and creative endeavor.

The camp offers study in Visual Arts, Dance, Theater, Music, and Writing, arts-related study in Chess, and health and wellness-related study in the Nature and Recreational Arts program. More than 70 classes are taught in these departments with students creating their own unique summer program that contains one major course (two hours), one minor course (one hour), and one recreational activity (one hour). The camp's programs are designed for students of varying levels of experience and ability, from beginner to advanced. Auditions are not required for most programs and admission is based on a declaration of interest in a specific area.

Usdan's student body, of approximately 1,500 students each summer, is diverse in geography (with students coming from New York City, Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties), age (with students, ages 4-18, coming from grade pre-K through 12th grade), ethnicity, religion, ability, sexuality, and gender-identity. They are bound together by their love of the arts and their interest in creating and expressing themselves through art. A faculty of dedicated, thoughtful teachers guide students through unforgettable summers of fun and exploration.

Position Summary: The Outdoor Education program is comprised of two classes that use the natural world as a classroom for the study of nature, as a springboard for understanding eco-systems and sustainability, and as a laboratory that provides fascinating experiences, challenges, and meditations for students. The Nature, Ecology, and Design class is a guided examination of the ecology and the natural environment that lead students to reflect, to wonder, and to explore personal expression in the arts (visual arts, music, poetry, movement). The study of nature and artistic expression are woven together so that children expand their awareness of the beauty of the natural world, understand its frailty, and experience a summer of fun and artistic exploration inspired by nature. The Organic Gardening and Simple Food class teaches students the art and science of growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables and how to transform them into healthy, artful dishes. Students discover the eco-systems in the garden and come to understand its place in the larger ecology of our planet.

Reporting to the Associate Executive Director, and working in partnership with the Executive Director, and the Director of Admissions, the Director of Outdoor Education will be responsible for the overall vision, direction, assessment and supervision of the 7-week summer program in Nature Studies comprised of the Nature, Ecology, and Design class and the Organic Gardening and Simple Foods class. The Director of Outdoor Education will have teaching duties in the Nature, Ecology, and Design program as well. The Director will work on a limited basis, pre-season, in the months leading up to June, and on campus in Huntington, Long Island, NY for the 35 days of the summer season.

JOB REQUIREMENTS



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CAMP 185 Colonial Springs Road, Wheatley Heights, NY 11798 | Phone: 631-643-7900 | Fax: 631-643-6309

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Traits and Characteristics: The Director of Outdoor Education will be a passionate educator, naturalist, scientist, and/or artist who is energetic, organized, curious, and thoughtful. As the lead representative of the camp's Outdoor Education programs, the Director will represent the institution and work strategically with the Administration to help the organization realize its mission and goals.

The Director will also be:

- an innovator, open to new trends in outdoor education and a collaborator, working across artistic disciplines.
- a flexible leader, able to work with everyone, and comfortable offering feedback, critical and encouraging.
- organized, self-motivated, and able to prioritize multiple tasks during crunch times.
- an advocate for students and teachers, conscious of fostering students at all levels of ability and of supporting teachers in their quest to be flexible and adaptive.

Qualifications: The successful candidate must have:

- a master's degree in science, education or the arts or equivalent knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- minimum of 10 years experience teaching science, art, writing, or a combination.
- experience creating and implementing partnerships with external organizations.
- experience designing and implementing interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary teams and projects.
- enthusiasm and passion for working with children.
- a passion for the arts, preferably with experience pursuing an artistic endeavor.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Director of Outdoor Education will:

- work with the Administrative staff to shape the department's structure and subsequent course offerings, with an eye towards maximizing enrollment in the department.
- Build relationships with current staff, as well as other department chairs and leaders within the Usdan teaching community.
- hire a faculty of teachers who are engaged, thoughtful educators who have the ability to work with children of varying abilities.
- serve as a resource for students, parents, and staff regarding health and safety in the natural world and in nature education programs.
- create expressive outlets for students using multiple art forms, and through interdisciplinary study.
- work with the Administration to engage and educate campers at the departmental, campus and global levels regarding issues such as sustainability, environmental stewardship and conservation.

Salary, Dates and Times:

2016 Pre-season work

Monthly until June, 2016

Salary: \$500 per month

Location: Work from home and on Usdan's Campus in Huntington, Long Island, NY

2016 Summer Season

- 1 weekday: Orientation Day, Wednesday, June 22, 2:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- 34 Weekdays: Monday - Friday, June 27 - August 12, 2016, 9:15 AM - 3:15 PM

Salary: \$9,500

Location: Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts, Huntington, Long Island, NY

Transportation is available at a reasonable rate for faculty members commuting from many Manhattan and Brooklyn neighborhoods.

To Apply: Please send a cover letter, outlining your experience as an educator and your relationship to the arts, as well as a resume, addressed to Ms. Lauren Brandt Schloss, Executive Director, to Employment@usdan.org. (Please note that .PDF attachment files are preferable.)