



Dunes Learning Center

**** Where Nature Nurtures Knowledge****

Position Announcement

Position Title: Naturalist Intern

General Description: Dunes Learning Center (DLC) is a residential education facility within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore that works in close partnership with the National Park Service (NPS). Our mission is to help learners of all ages explore the dynamic relationship between people and their environments using the natural and cultural resources of the Indiana Dunes region. Naturalist Interns are key members of the program staff at the DLC. Naturalist Interns will develop their naturalist, outdoor education, and resource interpretation skills and techniques. They will instruct children and adults regarding the diversity of ecosystems, plants and animals, and cultural history of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and southern Lake Michigan region. In the summer Naturalist Interns often work in pairs to give each the opportunity to shadow peers, provide and receive feedback, and learn a variety of teaching styles and techniques.

Term of Position: Full-time Summer (June 3 – August 10), Fall (Late August, 2011- Early June, 2012). Involves weekend and evening hours. Applications are being accepted for summer, fall, or both.

Responsibilities:

- Present DLC programs in natural and cultural history, inquiry-based science, and resource stewardship for children; primarily students aged 8-16
- Lead half-day and day-long educational/interpretive hikes on Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore trails including living history cultural programs
- Attend training workshops and regularly scheduled staff meetings
- Ensure safety and well-being of program participants
- Conduct evening and weekend programs as scheduled
- Assist in the maintenance of all program supplies, equipment, and facilities
- Assist with other duties as required

Required Qualifications

- BA/BS in Natural Sciences, Biology, Education, Parks and Recreation Management, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Resource or Heritage Interpretation, Outdoor or Environmental Education, or related field
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Physically able to work outdoors in all weather conditions and hike several miles over hilly dunes terrain while carrying a 25-lb backpack
- Great independent worker and team player
- Possess valid driver's license and have reliable transportation (car, bike, etc)

Desired Qualifications

- Prior experience in classroom teaching, outdoor education, residential camp setting, nature centers, or day camps
- Lifesaving and water safety certification

Benefits: \$210.00 per week stipend, shared housing located on Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore property, uniforms, First Aid and CPR training, meals when groups are in residence, multiple peer shadowing opportunities.

To Apply: E-mail a cover letter, resume, and 3 references to contact (no written references necessary) to Amy Workman, Education Director; 219-395-9555, ext. 3; aworkman@duneslearningcenter.org.