

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE NATURALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This is a paraprofessional position responsible for the safe, secure and efficient operation of the biology and natural resource conservation laboratories conducted at Norrie Point Environmental Center. Laboratory work at this site includes operating the boat for the purposes of netting and collecting specimens. Incumbent is responsible for the maintenance and safe operation of the motor boats at the site. In addition, the incumbent assists the Director in the development and maintenance of Norrie Point as a center for the community to learn about the ecology of the Hudson River Valley. Besides museum and aquarium displays and nature trails, public education is achieved through the use of lectures, field and boat trips, all of which can be geared to the specific interest of the group. An incumbent applies their general knowledge of environmental biology and specific knowledge of the ecology of the Hudson River Valley in developing and maintaining the site and disseminating information to the public and various special interest groups. This position involves a great deal of public contact and independent work. It differs from Teaching Laboratory Assistant because of the additional responsibilities for the development and maintenance of the Norrie Point Site, involving extensive public contact and boat operation. Supervision is received from the Director of Norrie Point. Supervision may be exercised over student aides, work study students and volunteers.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Set-up and break down a variety of tools and equipment in the biology and natural resource conservation laboratories for faculty and student use;
2. Distribute and maintain the security of laboratory equipment;
3. Requisition equipment and supplies and assist in the preparation of the departmental budget pertaining to laboratory supplies;
4. Instruct students in the operation and safety procedures of the motor boat;
5. Supervise students in the netting and collecting of fresh-water specimens;
6. Assist the Director in the development of special programs pertaining to environmental biology and the ecology of the Norrie Point Site and the Hudson River Valley for various community groups;
7. Conducts presentations, field and boat trips for various community groups such as school groups, scout groups, senior groups, etc.;
8. Answers general questions asked by the public on the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems found within the Hudson River Valley;
9. Provides general introduction to the Norrie Point Center to groups utilizing the site for conference and general purposes;
10. Works with Director in studying such things as ichthyological population, feeding habits and mortality of aquatic specimens for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a large fresh water aquarium representative of the Hudson River Valley;
11. Collects specimens for the aquarium, museum and study collections at the site;
12. Categorizes, classifies and prepares a variety of nature specimens which were collected at the site or received through donations for display in the museum and study collections;
13. Maintains and performs simple repairs of equipment and boats at the site;
14. May supervise student aides, work study students and volunteers;
15. May assist the Director in the preparation of grant proposals by providing input on the needs of the site;
16. Does related work as required.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE NATURALIST (Cont'd)

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of environmental biology in general and the specific aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems found within the Hudson River Valley; working knowledge of field collecting and preparation of nature specimens; working knowledge of the maintenance of an aquatic ecosystem; working knowledge of budgeting principles and practices; skill in the operation of a motor boat; skill in repairing and maintaining biology laboratory equipment; skill in establishing a rapport with people and conveying enthusiasm in a subject matter; ability to communicate effectively and make oral presentations before groups; ability to deal effectively with persons of different age groups and educational backgrounds; ability to work alone with a minimum of supervision; ability to read and interpret technical material related to ecology; ability to keep simple records; willingness to work out-of-doors for extended periods of time; patience; courtesy; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology with a specialization in one or more of the following areas: aquatic biology, wildlife management, environmental science, environmental measurement or a closely related field PLUS candidates must have some prior experience in the operation and maintenance of a power boat.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Eligibility for the appropriate level New York State Driver's license at the time of application. Possession of license at time of appointment.
2. Any person appointed to this position must successfully complete the Mid-Hudson Power Squadron course in Boating Safety.

AR0305

ADOPTED: 06/02/86 - (Teaching Laboratory Assistant)

REVISED: 07/01/91