

**MT Summer Outdoor Educator**

**Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium**

**1302 Main Street**

**St. Johnsbury, VT 05819**

This position is part of the Lyndon Economic opportunity AmeriCorps Program (LEAP). LEAP is a national service program that places AmeriCorps members with non-profit organizations throughout the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) of Vermont and surrounding areas to support those organizations in building capacity and expanding their educational and/or environmental services that many communities rely on. LEAP supports members in their path to educational and career attainment through direct service, on-going trainings, and professional development opportunities offered during the service year.

**About Fairbanks Museum:**

Our mission is to inspire appreciation for our place in the natural world and to motivate our stewardship of a healthy planet. The goals of this position are to inspire children about the natural world through direct service. This service includes instruction on specific subjects as laid out by the Director of Education and the Director of EarthWalk-Fairbanks.

**The AmeriCorps Outdoor Educator will:**

The LEAP member will serve with the Director of EarthWalk-Fairbanks programs, in the planning, preparation and implementation of, 5 weeks of Forest Camps, and assisting with a 1 week Teacher Training Course, at the Fairbanks Museum Nature Preserve, in Danville, VT.

General duties will include mentoring children in hands-on learning experiences rooted in nature and community-building, guiding them towards healthy, meaningful lives in leadership and land stewardship.

**Essential Functions:**

* Collaborate with the Director of EarthWalk-Fairbanks, in offering exceptional outdoor education Summer Camp experiences for local youth
* Arrive at Matsinger Forest at 8am and depart at 4pm each day (camp day: 9am-3pm, planning and debrief 1 hour before and 1 hour after camp)
* Create safe, meaningful, and joyful outdoor learning experiences, at Summer Camps for children ages 6 to 12, and one camp: Forest Stewards for ages 13-15
* Plan, prepare and collaborate in leading activities and mentoring children in nature exploration, playing games, making forest crafts, outdoor living skills, stories, songs and more
* Support healthy leadership development in the Mentors-in-Training (2 MIT’s, ages 13-15, will be supporting each camp)
* Plan and create stewardship projects with campers, such as maintaining trails and building footbridges for more accessibility
* Model open, caring and respectful communication with children, teens, staff, families, and community members
* Demonstrate a willingness to be a life-long learner, and grow personally and professionally

**Marginal Functions:**

* Help set up, break down and attend our educational lectures and presentations.
* Assist with stewardship projects, trail maintenance, foot bridge building, and other service projects in the Matsinger Forest.
* Aid in communications, program collaboration, and professional development opportunities with the EarthWalk-Fairbanks partnership.
* Disaster Recovery and Relief Service Activities as needed, including mucking out basements, general debris cleanup, supply distribution, providing childcare to volunteers, etc.

**Desired Qualifications:**

* Experience mentoring groups of children outdoors;
* Love of children and the earth;
* Experience in Leadership and Teamwork;
* Strong interpersonal skills with creativity and flexibility;
* Possessing local naturalist and outdoor skills (i.e.: foraging, fire-making, wood carving, shelter-building, tracking and more);
* In good physical condition, comfortable spending extended amounts of time outdoors;
* Current Wilderness First Aid and CPR a plus!

**LEAP Minimum Qualifications:**

* US citizenship status or permanent legal resident;
* 18 years of age or 17 years of age with written parental permission;
* Have a high school diploma or its equivalent or be willing to work towards a high school diploma or its equivalent as part of the service-year successful completion requirement;
* Have no criminal record of convictions for sex offenses or murder;
* Consent to and pass a National Service Criminal History Check and a State of Vermont AHS Child and Adult Abuse Registry Check;
* Commit to the Lyndon Economic opportunity AmeriCorps Program and its ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
* Ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required training and events;
* Commit to participating in the LEAP data collection process;
* Commit to completing bi-weekly electronic timesheets;
* Commit to participating in member evaluation process.

**Benefits of Service:**

* Education Award upon successful completion of service;
* Student loan forbearance;
* Training and professional development opportunities through host site, LEAP, and SerVermont;
* Mileage reimbursement for service-related travel;
* Access to Schools/Employers of National Service and AmeriCorps alumni network;
* Access to free Member Assistance Program;
* Free or reduced priced housing via host site organization or the Vermont State University – Lyndon Campus;
* Access to 3SquaresVT SNAP benefits;
* Access to professional development funds and mileage reimbursement for service-related travel;
* Full Time positions only: access to health care and childcare assistance.

**Service Conditions:**

EarthWalk-Fairbanks Summer Camps are all outdoors, taking place at the Fairbanks Museum Nature Preserve at Matsinger Forest in Danville VT.

**Tentative Hours for 8 weeks:**

* 8:00 am to 4:00pm
* June 9-13: Training days for Forest Camps, including going over safety procedures and protocols; outdoor skills needed, ecological mapping of the forest; activity planning and site preparation.
* June 16-20; June 23-27; July 7-11; July 14-18 and July 28-August 1: (5 weeks of Forest Camps)
* August 4-8: Assisting with Teacher Training: EarthWalk Forest Educators’ Course
* August 11-13 wrap-up, site clean-up, organizing, and evaluation

**Position begins:** June 9, 2025 **Position ends:** August 15, 2025

*This position is: (check one)*

**\_\_\_Full Time:** Requires 1,700 hours for an average of 36 hours per week for one year. Member will receive a living allowance of $25,500 (pre-tax), and an education award of $7,395 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service. Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training opportunities.

**\_\_\_Half Time:** Requires 900 hours of service. Member will receive a living allowance of $13,500 (pre-tax), and an education award of $3,697.50 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service. Other benefits include federal school loan forbearance, and various training opportunities.

**\_\_\_Quarter Time:** Requires 450 hours of service. Member will receive a living allowance of $6,750 (pre-tax), and an education award of $1,956.35 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service. Other benefits include federal school loan forbearance, and various training opportunities.

**\_X\_\_** **Other:** please contact LEAP by phone to discuss any other slot types that may be of interest.

**This position (check one)**

**\_\_X\_does**

**\_\_\_does not**

have recurring access to vulnerable populations (youth, persons over 60, individuals with disabilities).

**To Apply**:

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Karina Weiss, Director of Education

Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium

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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

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 kweiss@fairbanksmuseum.org

**Application deadline: April 30, 2025**

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at *www.americorps.org.*

**The Lyndon Economic opportunity AmeriCorps Program (LEAP) is hosted by Vermont State University – Lyndon and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran’s status, religion or creed.**