



Mountain Roots

Position Opening: Outdoor Education Instructor

Organization Overview

Mountain Roots, Inc. is a 501c3 educational non-profit serving communities in western North Carolina. Mountain Roots began offering experiential education programs in 2011 with a focus on three main topics: nature-based science education; TLC (Teams, Leadership, and Character); and the Arts (pottery, storytelling, art/yoga/wellness retreats). In 2015, Mountain Roots launched its two largest programs—Outdoor Education programs for public schools and Mountain Roots Day Camp. Some of our partner schools incorporate OE as a weekly special, just like students attend PE, Art, and Music, they also have the opportunity to attend our OE programs (combining Environmental Education and TLC)—the others are outreach programs with quarterly OE programs provided through both local and national grants. Summer 2021 we are running 7 weeks of Day Camp in the Brevard area as an opportunity for local and visiting youth to get outside, explore, create projects, and play with new friends.

Position Opening

The Mountain Roots Outdoor Education Instructor is a part-time position within a growing role and organization (with potential to grow towards more full-time work). This OE Instructor will assist with curriculum development and facilitation for Mountain Roots Outdoor Education programs; and will play a leadership role in the program development and implementation of Mountain Roots Day Camp* (in collaboration with the Executive Director & Program Coordinator). We are looking for a Lead Instructor who will be excited about: teaching (and developing) regular Outdoor Education classes; working closely with a small staff on a wide range of administrative projects and logistics; and interacting with the campers and families of our day camp and other programs.

Job Responsibilities

An Outdoor Education Instructor must be able to dive into a realm of facilitation and administrative / program development opportunities. We work with a range of populations through our various programs. As a mission-driven and community-based educational organization, all of our employees strive to live out the Mountain Roots mission: to provide discovery and outdoor learning experiences with a focus on environmentally responsible and community centered-living. An Outdoor Education Instructor must maintain a wide range of **responsibilities**; these include, but are not limited to the following:

- Develop and teach Outdoor Ed. lessons for local K-8 students. Focus on nature /science based lessons and TLC (Teams, Leadership, and Character development) lessons.
- Program / Curriculum Development for Outdoor Education and Day Camp programs
- Assist with the development of school, camp, and community gardens
- Attend and assist with all Mountain Roots staff meetings, in-services, and community events
- Act as a model of the leadership and character development traits that we encourage
- Be a mentor to participants and staff. Openness to receive and provide effective feedback
- Maintain a positive attitude and flexible mindset
- Marketing assistance & Develop an understanding of all programs of Mountain Roots, Inc.
- Participate and assist in leading summer staff training for the Mountain Roots staff team*
- Various non-teaching responsibilities and projects as assigned
- Manage groups in a safe manner, as outlined in the Mountain Roots risk management plan
- Punctuality and time management
- Physically able to work the various programs



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Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in outdoor leadership/recreation/education; elementary education, environmental sciences/studies, non-profit management, and other related fields (Master's preferred)
- Experience working with youth / teens & individuals from various backgrounds, abilities, & cultures
- Wilderness First Responder (preferred) or Standard First Aid / CPR
- Outstanding verbal and written communication skills; and a high degree of organizational skills
- Interest in expanding facilitation and administrative skills
- Excitement about serving others in an outdoor setting through experiential education
- Interest and / or experience in program and curriculum development
- Competent and comfortable leadership and teaching styles
- Garden experience preferred
- Marketing / Social media / Website Development experience preferred

Compensation

- Outdoor Education facilitation = \$100/day for 7 hours of teaching / projects
- Project / admin days based on \$13/hour
 - OE Instructors will be given a Google Sheet work log for keeping track of hours

Proposed Work Schedule 2021-22 school year

- September -November 2021—Outreach Outdoor Education programs (Transylvania & Rutherford Counties) 2-4 days / week (depending on the week)
- December 2021-January 2022—Admin projects and occasional teaching days with Lake Lure Classical Academy
- February-May 2022-- Outreach Outdoor Education programs (Transylvania & Rutherford Counties) 2-4 days / week (depending on the week)
- Summer 2022—Mountain Roots Day Camp (position TBD)

Reports To: Executive Director

Application Closing Date: Position open until filled

Desired Job Start Date: Early September 2021

To apply: Send a cover letter expressing your interest in joining the Mountain Roots team. Include in your cover letter a statement of how you feel your skill set, personality, and leadership style will benefit both the Mountain Roots organization and the participants we serve. Please include your qualifications, resume, and contact information for 3 references to:

Mountain Roots, Inc. Attn: Staffing
PO Box 248
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718
Or email to: ali@mountainroots.org

** Mountain Roots will consider qualified applicants for the OE Instructor position just for the fall / spring seasons, but commitment to our summer day camp program is preferred.*