



JOB TITLE: WILDERNESS PROGRAMS MANAGER
LOCATION: YOSEMITE
REPORTS TO: EDUCATION DIRECTOR
FLSA STATUS: EXEMPT

About NatureBridge

Founded in 1971, NatureBridge provides environmental science programs for students in the world's best classrooms—our national parks. These residential programs connect students to the wonder and science of nature and inspire the stewards of tomorrow. As the largest residential education partner of the National Park Service, NatureBridge serves more than 30,000 students and their teachers each year and offers programs in six national parks: Yosemite National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Olympic National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Channel Islands National Park, and Prince William Forest Park. In order to further our mission, NatureBridge is committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion and to promoting equal opportunity for students and staff in the field of environmental education. For more information, visit: naturebridge.org

Summary

The Wilderness Programs Manager is responsible for managing and coordinating wilderness programs operated by NatureBridge in Yosemite including environmental science education backcountry programs and WildLink programs. In addition, the Wilderness Programs Manager supports other backcountry programming, including Field Research Courses and Armstrong Scholars expeditions.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

Wilderness Program Execution & Development

- Coordinate wilderness programs including environmental science backcountry programs, WildLink programs and Merced Grove cabin programs.
- Act as on-call support during wilderness programs, and periodically for regular programs.
- Provide training, support, and performance evaluation of educators on wilderness programs including the Armstrong Scholars and Field Research Course expeditions.
- Plan and lead trainings to prepare educators to run safe, effective, logistically-sound environmental education programs in multi-day wilderness settings.
- Responsible for coordinating, reserving, and obtaining wilderness permits.
- Serve as NatureBridge liaison with NPS Wilderness Branch.
- Responsible for developing and updating wilderness program curriculum.
- Support Development Team with information for grant proposals and reports.
- Participate as a member of Education Team, helping inform decisions related to education and program logistics, and occasionally supporting day-to-day field operations.
- Collaborate as appropriate with other NPS, and NatureBridge staff to ensure the quality of wilderness programs and the student experience while in the backcountry.
- Provide guidance and support for Outreach and Enrollment and Operations Teams to prepare potential and future student groups for backcountry programs.
- Identify and facilitate improvements to NatureBridge Wilderness Programs as

appropriate.

- Administer and review some programmatic paperwork for wilderness programs.
- Work with Director of Food Service and Facilities to ensure safe setting for overnight trips to the Merced Grove Cabin.
- Collaborates with other campuses and national office staff on organization wide efforts.
- Works to ensure wilderness programs are meeting goals of CEF in manners appropriate for the programs.

Manage WildLink programs

- Coordinate and oversee all aspects of the WildLink program including wilderness expeditions, pre- & post-trip outreach programs, wilderness ambassador projects, and family weekend.
- Ensure that educators selected for WildLink programs are adequately prepared.
- Plan and lead trainings to prepare educators to run safe, effective, logistically-sound environmental education programs in multi-day wilderness settings.
- Plan, facilitate, and conduct Family Outreach Visits for all WildLink schools' expedition programs.
- Maintain WildLink program archives and update the WildLink website, Facebook page, and Flickr account with current program information.
- Develop and implement strategies to promote the participation of students and teachers in WildLink programs and events.
- Orient new WildLink teachers to the logistics and expectations of WildLink programs, work with teachers to support programs throughout the year, and review each school's participation annually.
- Conduct in-school post-expedition meetings to offer opportunities for meaningful reflection on expeditions and plan Wilderness Ambassador Projects and other future WildLink events.
- Develop and guide student efforts to develop Wilderness Ambassador Projects, including identifying and facilitating projects with other program partners.
- Cultivate partnerships with community organizations, public land managers, schools and teachers to ensure opportunities for Wilderness Ambassador Projects.
- Identify and communicate education and career development opportunities and internships to WildLink alumni, particularly those related to wilderness and public lands.
- Collaborate with Outreach and Enrollment to identify and cultivate new schools and groups to participate in WildLink.
- Plan and facilitate WildLink Family Weekend.
- Supervise an Education Support position focused on WildLink and backcountry support.

Backcountry Risk Management

- Work with the Yosemite Campus Risk Manager and the Director of Risk Management to ensure safe, responsive programming in wilderness settings and projects away from Yosemite for all students and staff.
- Participate as a member of the Yosemite Risk Management Committee.
- Maintain and update protocols and policies outlined in Backcountry Manual and Merced Grove Manual in coordination with Education Director, Director of Risk Management, and Director of Food Service and Facilities.

Gear

- Supervise the gear coordinator to ensure the maintenance, quality, and inventory of all backcountry gear including WildLink gear store in coordination with NPS.
- Work with gear manager to identify budget needs and manage funds for student gear, backcountry equipment, radio equipment, and first aid supplies.

Evaluation & Analysis

- Evaluate and report on wilderness program delivery and outcomes and collects and compiles demographic and experience data for use in evaluation and reporting.
- Evaluate program systems and efficacy and makes recommendations for innovation.

Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

Experience, Competencies and Education

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's degree or greater plus three to five years experience in experiential or environmental education including wilderness expedition programs.
- Experience working with underserved populations.
- Previous WildLink and NatureBridge backcountry programs experience and/or a current teaching credential are a plus.
- Experience coordinating logistics.
- Ability to speak Spanish is strongly preferred.
- Highly organized and comfortable working with limited oversight.
- Must be able to hike 7 to 8 miles with a full expedition backpack and lift and carry loads of up to 40 pounds.
- Backcountry navigation skills preferred
- Self-motivated, pro-active communicator who is able to work both independently and as a member of a team.
- Current Wilderness First Responder and CPR certification.
- Knowledge of the National Park Service and experience working as a park partner preferred.
- Familiarity with NatureBridge programs in Yosemite National Park preferred.

Supervisory Responsibilities

- Supervise the Gear Coordinator and one part time Education Support position.

Budget Managed

\$22,000 in operating expenses.

Working Conditions

Must be able to work in an open office setting with a low to moderate noise level. Must be able to work a flexible 40 hour week that may include weekend or evening work. Must be willing to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions.

Physical Demands

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential

functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand or sit, walk with a pack over uneven terrain; use hands to handle or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; talk and hear. The employee must occasionally hike seven to ten miles at elevations ranging from sea level to 10,000 feet elevation with a full expedition backpack. The employee must be able to lift and carry loads of up to 60 pounds.

HOW TO APPLY

Qualified candidates should email their resume, cover letter, references (three professional) to: yosemiteedteamhiring@naturebridge.org

This is a full-time, 12-month, exempt position. Salary is commensurate with experience. NatureBridge provides a comprehensive compensation package, including competitive salary, medical, dental benefits, vision, and generous vacation. This position is based in Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park. Applications will be accepted until September 11, 2017. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.