



Family Nature Program Facilitator Summer 2023

Location: Bend, OR with travel to La Pine, Prineville, and Redmond

Status: Seasonal, part-time (10-15 hours/week)

Schedule: June 12-July 26

July 12-16: flexible schedule for training and program preparation

June 20-July 13: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (approximately 9am-1pm)

July 18-26: Tuesdays, Wednesdays (approximately 9am-1pm)

Compensation: \$20.00-\$25.00/hour, depending on experience

Reports to: Children's Forest of Central Oregon Executive Director

About the Children's Forest of Central Oregon

The Children's Forest of Central Oregon's mission is to unite our community to inspire lifelong connections to nature for each child. We focus strongly on equity and inclusion, helping to connect underrepresented communities to impactful experiences in nature. We recognize that not all kids have equal access to the outdoors, and not everyone feels safe and welcome in outdoor spaces. We believe that the health and well-being of children, families, and communities improves when all people connect to the outdoors. We are a network of 30+ partners representing education, health care, conservation, and public lands. We believe we are more powerful when we work together as a community.

Position Overview

The Family Nature Program Facilitator will provide outreach to rural communities through weekly family nature programs offered in partnership with community organizations. The overall goal of the programs is to strengthen family connections to nature and for families to see nature as a place for them. There are two main programs. Kids On-the-Move will be offered in La Pine (6 weeks on Tuesdays) and Redmond (4 weeks on Thursdays) in partnership with OSU Extension Services' Nutrition Education Program. This program is open to families with children ages 0-5 and highlights nature exploration along with healthy eating habits. Storytime in the Park will be offered in Prineville (6 weeks on Wednesdays) in partnership with Crook County Library District. This program is open to all ages and focuses on early literacy and hands-on nature activities. The Family Nature Program Facilitator will co-lead these programs with our community partners and support the overall success of the program.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Interest and passion for the mission of the Children's Forest of Central Oregon
- Commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors

- At least 2 years of experience and/or training working in early childhood education, youth programs, and/or family engagement
- Experience implementing nature-based activities is preferred, but not required
- Ability to work independently and strong communication skills
- Valid driver's license, good driving record, and reliable transportation
- Regular and reliable attendance
- Ability to lift 30 pounds and stand for long periods of time
- A pre-employment or post-hire background screening and criminal history check

Responsibilities:

- Plan and deliver nature-based activities for young children and their families that foster curiosity and comfort in nature
- Model and share ways for families to continue to build connections to nature, highlighting the health benefits of time outdoors
- Track program participation and conduct informal and formal program evaluations
- Co-develop activity plans and coordinate program logistics with community partners
- Prepare program materials
- Travel to La Pine, Prineville, and Redmond weekly for program delivery
- Build a welcoming and inclusive program environment for all families
- Learn about issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors and integrate practices that foster inclusion into programs
- Occasionally serve as a representative for the Children's Forest at community events

Additional Information:

Due to the nature of this position, it may be an option for the employee to bring their child(ren) to work during programs. Details will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

To Apply:

Send your resume to Katie Chipko by Monday, May 15. Interviews and selection will occur by May 25.

Contact Information:

Katie Chipko

Executive Director

katie@childrensforestco.org

(859) 948-1789 (cell)