

Associate Environmental Educator for the Santa Lucia Conservancy

The Santa Lucia Conservancy (Conservancy) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust incorporated in 1995 to steward and protect the ecological integrity of the Santa Lucia Preserve within the Santa Lucia Mountain Range in Carmel, California. We are dedicated to advancing the art and science of conservation-compatible development through adaptive land management, conservation easement stewardship, ecological research, and environmental education programs. The Conservancy actively manages 18,000 acres of contiguous lands within the 20,000-acre Santa Lucia Preserve to protect and enhance their extraordinary ecological values. The Conservancy works with a variety of academic and environmental partners to conduct and promote land management and ecological research to increase our understanding of the interactions between human communities and the natural environment.

Job Description

Do you love teaching people of all ages, particularly children between Kindergarten and Fifth grades? Do you have a passion for the natural world, and a broad naturalist knowledge? Do you want to share your enthusiasm for all things nature and history with residents and visitors to the Santa Lucia Preserve? Working with the Lead Environmental Educator, the Associate Environmental Educator will support the Conservancy's Education Program with administrative duties and work with the Lead Environmental Educator to co-lead field trips and educational events on Conservancy-owned lands. The Associate Environmental Educator will primarily teach children and inspire a naturalist's appreciation for the diverse microbiomes in the Carmel Valley, including redwood forests, oak woodlands, oak savannas, native California grasslands, wetlands and riparian areas, and more.

This is a part-time independent contractor position offering \$26-30 per hour (commensurate with experience) for 15-20 hours per week during the school year. The schedule of this position will primarily be mornings Monday through Friday with occasional evenings and weekends. This position is seasonally variable; it will be busy during the fall and spring and light during the summer and winter.

Education Responsibilities: 85%

- Create and maintain age/grade appropriate environmental science curriculum that supports State of California standards including posters, videos and other teaching materials. All classes should be inspired by the natural and historic resources where taught. Classes should also be appropriate for different ages and modalities of learning, and include active as well as passive learning.
- Co-lead education events for children within the Santa Lucia Preserve and adjacent properties. Maintain daily communication with a co-teacher to ensure that each group is fully informed about all aspects of their visit and to ensure the safety and satisfactory experience for all visitors. When groups are unable to be physically present, teach virtual real-time walks.
- Co-lead a selection of naturalist hikes for The Preserve Community (adults).
- Coordinate with Conservancy Communications staff to create educational resources that can be shared digitally and in print, including but not limited to photos, videos, brochures, field guides, and posters.
- Coordinate with select Conservancy Board Members on a new peer-to-peer naturalist education program for Preserve Members.

Administrative responsibilities: 15%

In collaboration with the Lead Environmental Educator:

- Create a schedule of events by actively reaching out to former as well as new teachers and appropriate adult groups, with a particular emphasis on bringing underserved groups to the Santa Lucia Preserve. Coordinate with schools and individual teachers to schedule Zoom or in-person field trips.
- Maintain contact lists
- Make digital copies of physical resources
- Write grant reports
- Respond to all inquiries about the public education program.
- Facilitate liability paperwork for students, parents and teachers
- Coordinate with the Director of Business Operations to manage program costs
- Represent the Santa Lucia Conservancy to the public with professionalism and in a manner consistent with the organization's mission, vision and values.
- Must acquire contractor liability insurance

Qualifications

- Degree in environmental science, environmental studies, biology, or another related field
- 1-3 years of outdoor education experience and/or classroom teaching experience, especially with elementary aged children
- A broad knowledge of natural history and ability to shift between topics (e.g. watersheds, mammal biology, bird calls)
- Works well on a team/in a partnership
- Knowledge of Carmel Valley ecology is preferred, rapid ability to learn and disseminate new information is required
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written
- Ability to keep an extremely flexible and well-organized schedule.
- Familiarity with production of posters, videos and other teaching materials is preferred.
- Enthusiasm and excitement with sharing the wonders of nature with all visitors
- Physical requirements: Must be able to lift objects, work on feet outdoors for long periods of time, and drive
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check to work with youth
- Must acquire CPR and first aid certifications prior to the first day of employment

How to Apply

Please submit your application formatted in a single PDF by **November 15, 2021** to Susan Giles, Director of Business Operations at sgiles@slconservancy.org with "Associate Environmental Educator" in the subject line. Applications should include:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Three professional and/or personal references
- Up to three relevant work samples. Samples may include but are not limited to lesson plans, powerpoints, posters, field guides, or educational videos.

Expected start date: early January 2022