

Vida Verde Summer Leadership Project (SLP)

Summer Assistant Director Position 2024

June 10th to July 31st (8 weeks)



Mission Statement

Vida Verde is a nonprofit that promotes educational equity by providing free, overnight, environmental learning experiences for students who don't otherwise get the opportunity.

About the Org

Vida Verde has a long history of achieving remarkable results through high-quality programs delivered free of charge for 4th-6th grade students. Students interact in the outdoors with their peers and teachers, and they engage in activities meant to nurture positive interpersonal connections, instill a sense of belonging and connection to the natural world, and offer exposure to new and exciting environments and ideas. We are a small, tightly-knit, and exciting organization. Our jobs are the BEST, and so are the people who work here!

With equity as a cornerstone of Vida Verde's mission, our entire staff intentionally and actively engages in Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) work. We understand and agree that this work is critical in helping young people access high-quality, culturally relevant and inclusive nature education experiences; experiences that will translate into positive outcomes in their traditional classrooms.

(read our full JEDI statement below)

The SLP

Take all of the above and bring it to teens. This is the next level of Vida Verde that students have been asking for! The SLP is a one-week camping trip for high school aged Vida Verde "alumni" - and their peers - designed to empower them to be leaders in their communities and stewards of the natural world.

The SLP Summer Director Position

The Summer Assistant Director position is great for confident and empathetic managers who enjoy seeing a project to the finish while being able to gracefully receive and give feedback. The Summer Assistant Director works in tandem with the Teen and Family Programs Director to carry out the day-to-day logistics of the SLP. This position is also good for experienced educators or people who have worked extensively with teens and/or in underserved communities, and who have experience with curriculum design. You will thrive if you enjoy connecting with teens in a real way. We are looking for someone who wants to be challenged and work hard towards educational equity and who can handle a lot of responsibility and many details. The position is best suited for a confident, driven, and positive person who excels with collaborative work and independent decision making.

Compensation

- \$7,000 - \$10,000 depending on experience (38-45 hours/week)

- Large tent camping setup in a secluded rural setting, 3 miles from the ocean & beach.
- Access to community hot tub, trail, creek, and excess veggies from the garden.
- 3 organic meals per day during program weeks, snacks throughout training week.
- Options for childcare are negotiable.

Responsibilities Include

- Share the SLP vision and implementation with the Teen and Family Programs (TFP) Director; be a united front.
- Communicate with participant families over email, phone, in-person before, during and after the summer.
- As needed by the TFP Director, help recruit, hire, train and manage the SLP Facilitator and Counselor staff, per the Vida Verde hiring and management systems.
- Using the current systems and outlines, help the TFP Director plan SLP facilitator training week.
- Facilitate safe and positive interactions between teens.
- Collaborate with the facilitator team to develop an emotionally safe and supportive learning environment.
- Mentor SLP Facilitators and Counselors
- Instruct at the SLP alongside hired Facilitators.
- Ensure the program is running at the highest level of efficacy for both staff and participants.
- Be committed to the Vida Verde mission and vision; embody the Vida Verde values at work.
- Cook meals, facilitate meal prep, mealtime and lead cooking with teens.
- Lead games, songs, and storytelling activities.
- Lead various outdoor adventures: redwood hike, beach/tide pool exploration, goat milking and farm experience, night hike, and possible camp out
- Sleep a minimum of 4 nights per week on site (the same nights as participants)
- Plan and facilitate a multi-day elective skills activity
- Facilitate small group journaling/sharing activities with teens

Physical Requirements

- Work outside in varying weather conditions
- 90%+ work time on feet. Walk up to 5 miles in a day.
- Long workdays during program when participants are here

Location:

Vida Verde's home site is located at 3540 La Honda Road, San Gregorio, CA 94074. This is a 25-acre property along San Gregorio Creek, 1 hour from San Francisco and 45 minutes from Santa Cruz. The nearest town is Half Moon Bay, 15 miles away.

Application Procedure/Timeline:

Application review begins January 30th, application deadline is March 15th. Send resume, letter of interest, and 3 professional references by **email only** to Devin Peyton devin@Vveducation.org and Paula Alves paula@Vveducation.org

JEDI Statement

We Acknowledge That:

Everything is not okay.

We live in a world and society with personal, structural, and institutional injustice based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and other differences. This is affecting the lives of the Vida Verde students and the Vida Verde community in myriad profound ways.

We See Our Role As:

We have a deep commitment to examining, understanding, and working intentionally, every day, and for the long run to do our small part in dismantling the pieces of institutional injustice that we are able to. Vida Verde is one of the few outdoor education organizations that is focused on educational equity, and is dedicated to engaging Bay Area youth from low income families and communities who do not have free access to outdoor education experiences. Even though equity is a cornerstone of Vida Verde's mission, intentionally and actively engaging in Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) work more holistically will only continue to support these young people in accessing quality culturally relevant and inclusive nature education experiences that translate to positive outcomes in their traditional classrooms.

Why?

- Culturally relevant outdoor programs better engages students, and supports them in developing necessary critical thinking skills, improving their health and wellness, and more meaningfully connecting them to the land and food, and often fostering a passion and interest in the outdoors.
- The future of the environment is tethered to connecting the diverse youth of today to the outdoors.
- Research shows diversity in staff, an inclusive workplace culture, and culturally responsive practices lead to both better experiences and outcomes for students, and better attraction and retention of talented staff.
- Vida Verde aspires to serve as a blueprint/model for other values-aligned organizations (especially outdoor education organizations) who are looking for an example north star in JEDI work.

Our Vision:

We envision a future where all people have access to quality experiences in the outdoors, which have the power to profoundly impact hearts, minds and bodies.

Our Commitments:

- To steadfastly work toward our mission to promote educational equity by providing culturally relevant, free, overnight, environmental learning experiences for students who don't otherwise get the opportunity.
- Through culturally relevant programming, work to ensure Vida Verde students view nature as a place FOR them; a place they have a fundamental right to access, and a place that may influence them as leaders to vote, act and spend with the environment in mind.

- To build and grow a more racially diverse staff and board, and foster an inclusive culture within Vida Verde where all staff, donors and volunteers feel they are valued and belong.
 - To serve as a blueprint/model for other values-aligned organizations (especially outdoor education organizations) who are looking for an example in JEDI work.
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Values of Vida Verde

The Mission First

We are a mission-centric organization. We make every decision with the kids' benefit and the mission as our guide. We specifically tailor the program to meet the unique needs of the kids we serve, with deep respect for students and their communities.

Persistent Improvement and Our Best Practices

We are driven to continually improve and reach the highest standards across the organization for the benefit of the kids we serve. From program quality to healthy communication, from strategic goal setting to prioritization: we are detail-oriented, reflective, and strive to serve as a model. We balance our best practices and lessons from our history with innovation and inspiration for improvement.

The Environment and Natural Resources

We practice responsible and long-term thinking regarding land stewardship facility management, building, and design. Using resources wisely, we value the earth's resources over convenience and cost, and share that value with the greater community.

Relationships and Community

People are at the heart of this work. We strive to create long-lasting relationships with our staff, supporters, students, and teachers. We believe that by honoring and including diverse perspectives, our organization is stronger and more sustainable. We believe in love, not hate. We help different people see each other and all that we share in common, as well as what we can learn from each other.

Making It Happen

We overcome outrageous obstacles and successfully achieve ambitious goals by using a combination of resourcefulness, a positive mindset, and our team's diverse set of skills and experiences, without compromising our work/life balance and well-being. We know that beliefs lead to actions, which lead to results. We "make it happen" even when circumstances would lead most to think progress impossible.