

Environmental Education Specialist

The Biosphere Institute seeks an experienced Environmental Education Specialist who will:

1. Lead development and implementation of *Youth Conservation Partnerships*, a new initiative focused on empowering grade 10-12 students in the Bow Valley to design and implement meaningful conservation projects in their communities; and
2. Guide and supervise efforts to weave Indigenous perspectives into our K-9 wildlife and climate change education programs.

This is a one-year contract position with hours expected to average 20 hours/week. The Environmental Education Specialist will have flexibility in setting his/her hours. We expect that hours will fluctuate. The anticipated wage is \$36-\$42/hour. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Application deadline: October 15, 2019

Start date: On or before November 15, 2019

Location: Canmore, Alberta, with regular travel within Canmore and to Banff, Exshaw, and Morley, and occasional (twice / year) regional travel in the Rockies

Reports to: Executive Director, Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley

Responsibilities

Youth Conservation Partnerships

Youth Conservation Partnerships will bring high school students together to design and carry out projects that tangibly advance wildlife conservation and climate action in their communities. Students will collaborate with local conservation specialists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers.

- In collaboration with Bow Valley teachers and students, develop a framework for implementation of Youth Conservation Partnerships (YCPs) in fall-winter 2019, and organize and execute pilot projects in spring 2020
- Develop a database of local conservation specialists and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers willing to serve as YCP student mentors
- Design and lead two weekend-long field trips for YCP student participants
- Design and lead four student workshops
- Serve as an advisor for all YCP student projects, meeting with students regularly to provide educational material as needed and to plan on-the-ground activities, interaction with mentors, and community reporting

Integrating Indigenous perspectives

The Biosphere Institute is developing K-9 wildlife- and climate change-focused lesson plans that are explicitly tied to the Alberta science and social studies curriculum and that bring together Western and Indigenous perspectives. The Environmental Education Specialist will:

- Consult with Stoney Nakoda Elders and Knowledge Keepers to define authentic and innovative approaches to blend Indigenous and Western ways of knowing, and develop associated programs and teaching materials;
- Plan, deliver and supervise wildlife and climate change education programs in the classroom and in the field to ensure effective integration of Indigenous knowledge and current pedagogical practices;

- Build and maintain strong relationships with Stoney Elders and Knowledge Keepers and with teachers and administrators in Banff, Canmore, Morley, and Exshaw, and promote the Biosphere Institute's programs among these groups

This position will also assist with teacher and volunteer training for education program delivery, tracking of project results, and communications (report writing and/or popular communications).

Skills and Qualifications

Education

- Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Education or a related field, or equivalent training

Experience

- Minimum six years' experience developing and delivering environmental education programs to youth ages 10 to 18, including experience creating and delivering programs so that student knowledge builds sequentially from one year to the next
- Experience engaging high school aged students in applied problem-solving outside of the classroom
- Experience blending Indigenous and Western pedagogies and ways of knowing and learning
- Experience collaborating with diverse partners (e.g., teachers, high school students, local subject matter experts, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, and community volunteers). Local community knowledge and specific experience within the Canadian Rockies Public School system and/or Stoney Education Authority is an asset.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities

Other Attributes

- *Vision:* You understand the potential represented by Youth Conservation Partnerships and by the integration of Indigenous perspectives and Western pedagogical practices. You can envision how these education programs will look as they develop over time, and you are able to build a solid foundation for their future.
- *Youth engagement:* You know how to build rapport with youth ages 15-18 and how to develop their skills to take meaningful action.
- *Commitment to collaboration:* You are a thoughtful relationship-builder and an effective communicator.
- *Project management:* You are experienced in independently planning your work to achieve objectives, tracking progress against deliverables and adjusting activities as needed.
- *Interdisciplinary and flexible thinking skills:* You have the ability to build bridges between topics and see multiple facets of environmental challenges.
- Knowledge of local wildlife and climate change issues is a plus; a willingness to learn about these topics is essential
- A valid driver's license and vehicle are required
- The successful candidate must provide a criminal record check before employment begins

To apply, please submit a cover letter, CV and contact information (email and phone number) for 3 references to resource@biosphereinstitute.org .