

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Environmental Education Opportunities

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center is a public, 501(c)(3) non-profit residential learning center near Sandstone, MN that provides outdoor educational opportunities to diverse audiences in an intimate setting. Our organization is committed to making the outdoors accessible to everyone with learner-centered, nature-focused programming that is responsive to all visitors. We hope you can join us and continue growing as an outstanding environmental educator! Inquiries into the following positions are always welcome via email or phone.

To apply to any of the following positions, email your cover letter explaining why you want to work with the public, particularly children, in the outdoors, resume, and three references (at least 2 professional) to:

Ashley Bozman (she/her), Fellowship Coordinator, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center
bozman@ospreywilds.org | (320) 245-2648 | www.ospreywilds.org

Positions available and application timetables (all positions require a background check):

[Environmental Education Fellow \(1st year\)](#)

- 6 positions available for immediate hire - full applications will be considered upon receipt.
- 9 positions available for the 2024-2025 school year
- Fall 2024- Full applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with priority consideration deadline of March 6th. All applications that have been submitted up until that date will be reviewed at that time, with interview opportunities following close behind. Applications will continue to be accepted and considered after that date until all positions are filled.

[Environmental Education Fellow Mentor \(2nd year\)](#)

- Up to 5 positions available, requires 1st year fellowship experience
- Apply for the one year fellowship. Feel free to express your interest in the 2 year position in your cover letter, and which focus area would suit you best if applicable.

[Substitute Environmental Educator](#)

- There are no limits as to the number of people we have as substitutes. It's not guaranteed that you will be called for programming during any given month
- Full applications will be considered upon receipt, followed by an online interview for qualified candidates. A decision will be made within 2 weeks regarding employment.
- Training will be provided for programs that you are interested in. You can see our outdoor school offerings on [our website](#)

Environmental Education Fellow (1st year)

Gain experience in current environmental education methods, as well as knowledge of Minnesota's unique biomes and natural history through training seminars, direct mentorship, graduate-level coursework, and on-the-job learning.

Position Dates:

Winter 2024 Cohort: Immediate - December, 2024 - negotiable

Fall 2024 Cohort: August 14th, 2024 - August 8th, 2025

Responsibilities:

- Teach ecology, wildlife, adventure, and cultural classes to large and small groups of all ages, including evening and weekend programming.
- Plan and lead Summer Camp programming and free-time activities.
 - Overnight counseling may be required for overnight camps and college groups.
- Serve as the primary representative and host to visiting conference and retreat groups. This includes being on-call for overnight visitors and serving food
- Attend weekly staff meetings and regular training throughout the year
- Provide basic husbandry for our animal ambassadors, including raptors, corvids, mammals, invertebrates and herps. This includes meal preparation requiring the cutting up of frozen animals and the maintenance of feeder invertebrates and dermestid beetle colony.
- Complete other self-directed projects, or projects/tasks as assigned

Osprey Wilds Expects an Environmental Education Fellow to be:

- Committed to providing positive experiences in nature with all site visitors in an equitable and just manner
- Excited to work with children
- Passionate about growing their skills and knowledge
- Tenacious and willing to work and lead outside in all kinds of situations.

We think you should apply if:

- If you are in the beginning stages of your professional career
- You are willing to take initiative to support our programs and staff and consider yourself a self starter
- You have a passion for animals and have an willingness for working with and caring for our animal ambassadors
- You have an interest or experience in working with learners of all ages; particularly elementary and middle school age
- Interest in outdoor activities including, but not limited to: canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, orienteering, cross country skiing, etc.
- You are able to be adaptive to meet your groups needs, including being vulnerable and stepping out of your comfort zone

Qualified candidates will have the following:

- BA or BS in a related field, or equivalent work experience/training
- Ability to commit to a full year and live on site in communal housing
- Is COVID-19 vaccinated or is willing to become vaccinated
- Ability to lift heavy equipment, such as a canoe, hike on uneven trails, and work outside in all weather conditions
- Ability to lead and participate in our climbing wall and high ropes course (max height: 40 ft, training will be provided.)
- Must pass a background check

Benefits:

- Work outside in a beautiful setting: 780 acres with coniferous and mixed hardwood forest, creek, prairie, and wetland areas, as well as a lake with a beach adjacent to the staff house
- National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide course, National Archery in our Schools Program Basic Archery Instructor certification, and other industry related certifications (\$710 value minimum)
- Year-long training in pedagogy, curriculum development, and environmental education theory
- Broad natural history and animal husbandry training
- \$300/week stipend, room & board
- **Optional 10 Paid Graduate Credits through Hamline University** towards a masters degree in Natural Science and Environmental Education offered at a reduced rate (\$5,637 value: onsite in person classes)
- Opportunity for advancement - pending performance review
 - Stay on for a second year to experience more mentorship opportunities as well as additional responsibilities in your field of choice. See [Environmental Education Fellow Mentor \(2nd year\)](#) for details.
- Private room in on-site Private Staff House, and most meals (\$13,500 value)
- Four days off per two-week pay period, plus 11 additional days of paid time off (aka vacation/ holiday time) and six days of paid sick and safe leave days ([what is this?](#)).
- Access to our Employee Assistance Program ([what is this?](#))
- Employee discounts in our store, for events and lodging for family members

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Environmental Education Fellow Mentor (2nd year)

Our Leadership Program is committed to developing the talents of emerging leaders in environmental education through on-the-job experience, mentorship, on-site training seminars, and professional development at conferences and off-site training. Spend your first year learning the ins-and-outs of residential environmental education through hands-on experiences and through our extensive professional development program. During your second year, develop your leadership skills as a Mentor Educator for our team of instructors and receive tailored training in a self-selected focus area. There are 5 positions available.

Position Dates:

This fellowship begins after successful completion of the 1 year fellowship

Year 2 Responsibilities:

- Continue with Year 1 [Responsibilities](#)
- Maintain a growth mindset particularly in peer mentorship skills
- Complete Specific Focus area tasks as applicable:

Frontline Education Lead (up to 2):

- Serve as a resource for other fellows regarding the OWELC Curriculum
- Maintain programming materials and supplies inventory
- Assist in training fellows on OWELC lessons, teaching strategies, and classroom management
- Learn to develop, pilot, and assess inquiry-based curricula
- Work with the Ed Leadership team on specific projects based on your unique professional development goals and programmatic needs

Events and Programming Lead (up to 2):

- Serve as Assistant Camp Director for youth summer camps
- Coordinate special programming such as Homeschool Camp, Winter Family Camp, Maple Syrup Day, and other community events
- Learn to develop, pilot, and assess inquiry-based curricula
- Lead education staff on curriculum development projects
- Attend an overnight, off-site conference on Environmental Education or other comparable training/ conference experience (\$1,500 budget)
- Work with the Education Director on area specific projects

Adventure Lead (up to 2):

- Assist on group trainings related to adventure equipment, adventure classes, basic first aid, emergency procedures and radio protocol
- Maintain all adventure equipment according to industry standards
- Maintain accurate inventories for all adventure equipment

- Assist with the assessment and implementation of risk management protocols as dictated by industry standards
- Lead off-site and Community College adventure programming
- Obtain certification in Challenge Course operation or other comparable training/ conference experience (\$1,500 budget)
- Work with the Fellowship Coordinator on area specific projects

Wildlife Lead (up to 2):

- Assist in overseeing daily husbandry and barn operations
- Be primary caretaker of 1 - 2 animals
- Continue to learn and improve your personal animal training techniques
- Assist in training new education staff on wildlife programming
- Assist with animal assessments and maintenance projects.
- Be a lead educator for wildlife outreach programming
- Learn and assist in documentation required for maintaining our wildlife program
- Attend a week-long training at the U of M Raptor Center or other comparable training/ conference experience (\$1,500 stipend budget)
- Work with the Wildlife Coordinator on area specific projects

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- Passionate about growing their skills and knowledge
- Tenacious and willing to work and lead outside in all kinds of situations.

We think you should apply if:

- You are in the beginning stages of your professional career but have some experience in the field already
- You are willing to take initiative to support our programs and staff and consider yourself a self starter
- You have a passion for animals and have an willingness for working with and caring for our animal ambassadors
- You have an interest or experience in working with learners of all ages; particularly elementary and middle school age
- Interest in outdoor activities including, but not limited to: canoeing, rock climbing, hiking, orienteering, cross country skiing, etc.
- You are able to be adaptive to meet your groups needs, including being vulnerable and stepping out of your comfort zone

Qualified candidates will have the following:

- BA or BS in a related field, or equivalent work experience/training
- Ability to commit to a full year, from December 2024-December 2025, and live on site in communal housing

- Is COVID-19 vaccinated or is willing to become vaccinated
- Ability to lift heavy equipment, such as a canoe, hike on uneven trails, and work outside in all weather conditions
- Ability to lead and participate in our climbing wall and high ropes course (max height: 40 ft, training will be provided.)
- A desire to be a peer mentor and assist with training where appropriate

Benefits:

- Work outside in a beautiful setting: 780 acres with coniferous and mixed hardwood forest, creek, prairie, and wetland areas, as well as a lake with a beach adjacent to the staff house
- Direct mentorship from our dedicated Education Department leadership team and our extended network
- Get to know our organization on a deeper level, hone your skills and apply feedback in a meaningful way.
- Broad natural history and animal husbandry training through onsite training and field trips
- YEAR 2 COMPENSATION: \$400/week stipend
- Private room in on-site Staff House, and most meals (\$13,500 value)
- Four days off per two-week pay period, plus 11 additional days of paid time off (aka vacation/ holiday time) and six days of paid sick and safe leave days ([what is this?](#)).
- Access to our Employee Assistance Program ([what is this?](#))
- Employee discounts in our store, for events and lodging for family members

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Substitute Environmental Educator

As schools and programs are able to start returning to our center, we are occasionally in need of additional assistance with our various classes and serving meals. We hope you can join our team!

Position Dates:

Applications will be considered on a continuous basis and assignments will be based on program needs and your availability

Qualifications:

- BA or BS in a related field, or equivalent work experience/training
- 21 years of age or older at the time of employment
- Ability to commit to learning our more popular environmental, adventure, and cultural classes.
- COVID-19 vaccinated or willing to become vaccinated
- Interest or experience in working with learners of all ages; particularly elementary and middle school age
- Interest and experience in outdoor activities including, but not limited to: camping, canoeing, backpacking, climbing, hiking.
- Must be excited to learn and try new things, and willing to take initiative to support our programs and staff.
- Ability to lift heavy equipment, such as a canoe, hike long distances, and work outside in all weather conditions
- Ability to lead and participate in our climbing wall and high ropes course (max height: 40 ft, training will be provided.)
- First Aid and CPR certification is a plus!
- Must pass a background check

Responsibilities:

- (During School Year) Teach 2hr ecology, wildlife, adventure, and cultural classes to large and small groups of all ages
- Arrive 30 minutes before class to set up materials and stay 10-30 minutes after class to clean up
- (During Summer) Assist with Summer Camp programming, free-time activities, and general supervision, whether virtual or onsite.
- Actively communicate with Osprey Wilds Staff regarding scheduling, availability, and class happenings

Benefits:

- Work outside in a beautiful setting: 780 acres with coniferous and mixed hardwood forest, creek, prairie, and wetland areas, as well as a lake with a beach adjacent to the staff house
- During School Year: \$35/class + Lunch (between 1 and 3 classes taught a day)
- Summer: \$100/day + Lunch