

Lead Field Educator (SIWI)



Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions seeks an enthusiastic educator to join our Students In Wilderness Initiative (SIWI) team in a full-time or part-time capacity. Our Students in Wilderness Initiative is a collaborative program developed with The Wilderness Society (TWS), a variety of schools across New Mexico, and is part of TWS's larger Youth In Wilderness program. Our program focuses on public lands, issues around the wilderness, the history of public lands in the US, and environmental education. The curriculum is delivered through a series of classroom sessions and field-based expeditions; the classroom sessions explore topics with students and connect them with stakeholders in those topics; field expeditions are designed to experience public lands, collaborate within their communities, and build comfort in outdoor spaces. This program works with 8th grade students and is designed to address the access gap that many historically marginalized communities experience in predominantly white outdoor spaces. In part, we hope to inspire and empower students to become advocates for wilderness and public lands and to develop a life-long relationship with public lands. A component of this position is developing strong connections with the communities in which our SIWI program works (meaning students, families, teachers, administrators, and other community leaders). The person in this position works with students and teachers both in school and on field expeditions from August-May and works with youth in CGE's open enrollment multi-week traveling programs during the summer.

Job Objective: Serve as the lead educator both in the classroom and the field for 130-150 SIWI students in 6-8 classrooms per academic year; coordinate logistics and refine curriculum for all field expeditions; collaborate with other SIWI team members on curriculum design. Support 5-7 weeks of open enrollment summer programs (3 weeks training new staff, 2-4 weeks working with participants).

Responsibilities:

Students in Wilderness Initiative (~85%):

- Prepare, schedule, facilitate, and support classroom-based learning experiences about the land designation and Wilderness with middle school students throughout New Mexico; Check in with classroom teachers throughout the year for classroom sessions and field-based expeditions; Guide students in a project-based learning component
- Schedule and communicate with stakeholders for classrooms sessions
- Facilitate and attend planning meetings via phone and in-person with teachers and administrators; represent CGE in a professional manner; facilitate and attend after-school parent meetings with families of SIWI students; answer questions about risk, backpacking, the relevance of curriculum, etc.
- Build relationships with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other community leaders to support the SIWI program
- Plan effective itineraries to get students into public lands and wilderness areas in compliance with organizational processes and serve as a team lead to ensure logistics for field expeditions are executed; Spend up to 5 nights at a time camping/backpacking in the field; total overnight fieldwork for SIWI will be between approximately 50 and 75 nights per year.
- Collaborate closely with other SIWI Lead Field Educators/Program Manager/Director of Education on curriculum design
- Serve in a leadership capacity while in the field acting as a group leader
- Assist with SIWI program administration including collaborative data collection and analysis at various levels, including information from student pre- and post-surveys; virtual communication with The Wilderness Society once every 1-4 weeks, in collaboration with other SIWI staff and program manager
- Assist with publicity, outreach, marketing and storytelling for the SIWI program
- Assist in writing reports to foundations and other funding agencies

- Assist with annual reviews of SIWI curriculum and collaboratively work to make improvements
- Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences including teachers, parents, land managers, funders, board members, etc.

Summer Expeditions (~10%):

- Lead and support outdoor education expeditions across the American Southwest, including in frontcountry and backcountry settings, ranging from single-day programs to multi-week programs; Depending on position, spend up to 14 nights at a time camping in the field; total overnight fieldwork for summer expeditions will be 25 days or less, not including staff training.
- Willing to live at our summer Basecamp in Thoreau, NM or work in the field for multiple days at a time between June 1st - Aug 15th. Specific roles in summer programs will be determined based on employee's skills and interests and the staffing needs of the organization.

Program Support (~5%):

- Participate in meetings, assist with partnership reporting/conversation
- Engage as a working professional in an office with ~10 full-time employees, assist with projects as needed
- Serve as an assistant trainer during field staff training expeditions
- Assist with facilitation of other CGE programs as a support staff person; anticipated 5-10 days per year
- Assist with other school contract programming

Requirements

- Applicants must be at least 21 years of age by the position start date and possess a valid driver's license. Must have a clean driving history and be able to meet the criteria for CGE vehicle insurance.
- Must be able to live at Basecamp or travel with a group during the summer.
- Work hours are frequently outside of traditional office hours. Overnight camping is required for 50-90 nights/year.
- Strong organizational skills; Ability to learn how to prioritize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously and independently.
- Ability to learn software (Google Drive, Adobe products, and Microsoft Office) quickly
- Ability to learn how to communicate effectively and professionally with a wide range of audiences (TWS representatives, fellow staff, teachers, students, parents, etc.) via a wide range of tools
- Passion for and experience with spending time outdoors
- WFR/WEMT or ability to acquire within 90 days of hire

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience as an outdoor educator, managing risk, supervising field staff, and independently running trips throughout a season;
- Experience leading backpacking;
- Education, classroom teaching, or curriculum development training or experience;
- Experience using Zoom, Google Hangouts, etc. for professional purposes and/or virtual teaching
- Experience with federal, state, tribal, and private land management
- Connection, understanding of, and relationship with New Mexico lands and wilderness areas
- Spanish, Diné, Zuni, Tiwa, Keres, Towa, Hopi, or Tewa language fluency.

Reports To: SIWI Program Manager

Criminal Background Check: Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions requires criminal background checks from all employees.

Work Location: Albuquerque, NM (August to June); Thoreau, NM (June to August).

Target Starting Date: May 31, 2022

Closing Date For Applications: Position Open Until Filled.

Schedule and Workload Responsibilities: Year-round, 1.0 FTE. This position is anticipated to be 40% field education, 40% classroom education, and 20% office/support work, with monthly and seasonal variation. Work hours vary and do not fit into traditional work hours. Overnight work is required for this position, approximately 50 to 75 nights per year.

Physical Requirements: Ability to hike up to 8 miles a day on uneven surfaces and carry a pack up to 50 pounds. Sleep in a tent or open-air cabin accessed by stairs. Work at a desk. Talk on the phone. Use a computer.

Compensation: This is a year-round position, based on funding provided. Annual salary starting at \$32,000-\$35,000 based on experience and qualifications. 100% Health Care Premiums paid, available after the first 30 days. Professional development opportunities both within and outside of the organization. Various Pro-Deals are available to all staff. Retirement matches up to 5% available after six months; HC/DC FSA account available. Housing at Thoreau Base Camp provided June-Aug.

Equal Employment Opportunity: Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, genetic information, and national or ethnic origin. The organization's nondiscrimination policy applies to all phases of its employment process, its admission and financial aid programs, and to all other aspects of its educational programs and activities.

Diversity & Inclusion Statement:

Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions believes in the learning, growth, and healing that can take place in the outdoors. We also recognize that access to programs like ours—along with access to any green space, clean air and water, and healthy food—continues to be a privilege rather than a right. CGE recognizes that in outdoor spaces, the voices and work of people of color, people from working-class backgrounds, indigenous people, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals have been often overlooked and marginalized. Therefore, we strongly encourage applications from people with these identities and those who are members of other historically marginalized communities.

How to Apply: Please send a resume/cover letter for this position to

naina.panthaki@cottonwoodgulch.org and tim.crofton@cottonwoodgulch.org

For priority consideration, apply by May 20, 2022.