



Discovery Camp Instructor

Position Description

Reports to: Youth Programs Manager

Job Duration: June 2nd to August 1st

Work Schedule: Discovery Camp Instructors will lead youth programming in both Denali and Talkeetna

Denali: Training: June 2nd-6th, Camp: June 9th- 13th and June 16th- 20th

Talkeetna: Training: TBD, Camp: July 7th- 11th, July 14th- 18th, July 21st- 25th, and July 28th – August 1st

***Local Hire:** Opportunity for working in just Denali or Talkeetna if preferred*

DEC Overview:

Denali Education Center (DEC) is a non-advocacy, for-purpose organization and partner of Denali National Park and Preserve. Our mission is to promote understanding and appreciation of Denali through fun, informative, and inspiring programs. Denali Education Center offers youth programming out of our Denali and Talkeetna campuses, where our week-long “Discovery Camps” are located. These programs include:

Denali Discovery Camp (DDC): A week-long program with overnight components, offered in partnership with the National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center. Our goal is to provide an educational opportunity for youth (grades 1st through 8th) to experience Denali National Park in a fun and safe manner.

Talkeetna Discovery Camp (TDC): A week-long day program taking inspiration from both Denali Discovery Camp and Wild Wonders (offered by Northern Susitna Institute in the past). TDC aims to inspire awe and exploration in youth (grades 1st through 8th) through hikes, science, art, community partnerships, and just plain fun.

Position Responsibilities:

Instructors will lead educational hikes, create engaging hands-on learning activities, manage groups during activities facilitated by community partners, and lead an overnight camping trip in Denali National Park. Regular duties include:

- Work collaboratively with a team of camp instructors, including Denali National Park Rangers
- Attend mandatory instructor training
- Supervise up to 12 youth in an outdoor setting
- Create and facilitate hands-on environmental learning activities that are age appropriate
- Facilitate and guide participants with Leave No Trace principles
- Serve as a mentor to high school aged Instructors in Training
- Manage and maintain youth program equipment
- Work with Youth Programs Manager on pre-program preparation and post-program de-briefing and tear-down programs (food purchasing, packing, gear usage, cleaning, etc.) Some work may be required over the weekend.
- Follow and enforce COVID protocols as outlined by NPS, DEC, and State and Federal agencies
- Communicate effectively to create a safe and inclusive learning environment for participants to explore and connect with the natural world around them
- Assist in managing youth program photos to be used for marketing purposes
- Lead and develop curriculum for our one-hour Tundra/Timber Tots programs, as schedule allows

- Work flexible hours as needed

Qualifications:

- High School Diploma
- Required certifications (or ability to obtain): Wilderness First Responder (WFR) or Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification, mandated reporter certification
- Experience with and passion for working with youth
- Enthusiasm for exploring the outdoors

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

- 2+ years of experience working in education or outdoor youth programming
- Knowledge of Denali National Park, Talkeetna and surrounding areas
- Outdoor technical skills (camping, orienteering, wildlife safety, risk management, etc.)
- Curriculum development and lesson planning experience
- Knowledge of Leave No Trace principles
- Solid interpersonal communication skills with peers, staff, the local community, and youth

Compensation:

- Starting wage for Discovery Camp Instructors is \$17/hour, wage is dependent on experience
- This position receives overtime pay (1.5x for any hours worked on a given day over the standard 8-hour workday, and any hours over a 40-hour week)
- DEC adult guest tips are pooled and dispersed upon completion of the summer contract
- Housing may be available for a nominal fee (\$200/month). Housing may be private or shared depending on availability. Housing is only available for people 21 years of age or older. Employee kitchen, laundry, and shower facilities will be available.

Disclaimer:

- This position may require instructors to drive participants in a 15-passenger van. Our insurance mandates that our drivers be at least 23 years of age and have a clean driving record to meet insurability requirements.
- This position description reflects the Denali Education Center's best effort to describe the essential functions and qualifications of the Youth Field Instructor position. It is neither an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, or qualifications nor a contract.
- This position requires a background check before being able to work with youth.
- This position requires interaction with the public. Although maintaining COVID safety is Denali Education Center's priority, there is a possibility of exposure in the position.

To Apply: Qualified candidates should send a resume, cover letter, and at least two references to Caitlin Mott at youth@denali.org

***Local Hire:** If you live in the communities from Talkeetna to Nenana and are interested in instructing just in Denali or Talkeetna, we encourage you to apply. Please specify in your application that you are applying for local hire and include your camp location availability/preference.