

Position Announcement: Outdoor School Coordinator



Season: May 2–October 28, 2022, with possible transition to permanent year-round work

Location: Virtual, with travel to Oregon Parks in the greater Salem and Portland areas

Compensation: \$3,750/month/Basic housing in Sandy, Oregon (optional)/5 days PTO

Program: Opal Creek Outdoor School

Outdoor School Coordinator Opportunity

After a 2-year hiatus, Opal Creek Outdoor School is back with new equity-centered curriculum and teaching locations. As outdoor school coordinator, your role is integral to the re-launch of outdoor school: you'll implement a day outdoor school program this spring, and design and build an overnight outdoor school program for fall. This seasonal position could transition to a year-round permanent position with a successful outreach and enrollment campaign for fall 2022 outdoor school.

This spring and fall, you coordinate and teach outdoor school in local Oregon parks using student- and nature-centered curricula developed with the guidance of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and our team's equity consultants. Throughout the course of a multi-day program, you'll guide 5th and 6th grade students in building their relationship with the natural world and each other.

This summer, you'll apply the lessons from spring to develop fall overnight programming. You'll outreach to long-time and new schools/districts to secure enrollment, coordinate all pre-trip logistics with visiting teachers, and revise the curriculum for an overnight setting.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

A successful candidate will possess these **minimum qualifications**. We are less interested in the titles you've held and more interested in what you've actually done and who you are.

- 1+ years teaching experience, formal or informal
- 2+ seasons working with youth
- Strong group leadership skills
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal
- Strong organizational skills
- Previous experience writing curriculum and lesson plans
- Familiarity with [The BEETLES Project](#) teaching methods, or equivalent methodology
- WFR, WFA or equivalent certification (by time of employment)
- COVID-19 vaccine (by time of employment)
- Able to lead groups on hikes up to 3 miles
- Able to pass a criminal background check
- Valid driver's license and able to drive a 15 passenger van



How to Apply & Timeline

Please submit an application by visiting [the employment page of our website](#). The application includes a series of questions, and asks you to upload a detailed resume in PDF format. Be sure to include any relevant experience and certifications, both professional and personal experience.

We are accepting applications until **March 25th**. There are two rounds of interviews for this position in total; the first round will be the week of March 28th, and the second interview the week of April 4th. The ideal start date is May 2nd, 2022.

Please contact hr@opalcreek.org with any questions and to request any accommodations you would like made during this hiring process. We'll do our best to respond to all queries and to keep all applicants up to date on how the process unfolds.



About Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center

Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center was formed in 1988 to advocate for the protection of the Opal Creek area. In 1996, legislation passed that established the Opal Creek Wilderness Area and instituted our unique role and responsibility as stewards, educators, and in-holders within the protected wilderness area. Our base of operations has been in the historic mining town of Jawbone Flats, situated in the stunning temperate rainforest of the Opal Creek Wilderness and surrounded by 5,000-foot peaks. This land was traditionally inhabited by the Molalla and Kalapuya Tribes, who are now part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

In September 2020, a wildfire swept down the Opal Creek watershed, burned much of the old growth forest in the Wilderness Area, and destroyed almost all of the historic buildings of Jawbone Flats. Our post-fire strategy for Jawbone Flats is focused tightly on recovery and cleanup. We are designing a new site plan that is in harmony with the land and will support the [amazing education programs we continue to offer](#).

Our mission is to provide transformative wilderness experiences that grow a community of environmental advocates. All of our work is based around one simple idea: people will protect what they care about, and they will care about what they know. Through our [outdoor school](#) and [backpacking expedition](#) programs, we bring youth and adults face-to-face with the outdoor places that make Oregon great—pristine mountain streams, uncut vistas, and old-growth forests.

