

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: SEASONAL OUTDOOR SCHOOL EDUCATOR

COMPENSATION: \$35/hour

CLOSES: March 14, 2025

JOB TYPE: Seasonal/Temporary

DURATION: April/May Training Sessions / Outdoor School Event May 27th through May 30th /
Follow-up Educator Debrief in June (TBD)

LOCATION: Sweet Home, OR

TO APPLY: <https://forms.gle/Tw2xRFLbJJt6yCMv9>

OVERVIEW

The South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) is seeking individuals who want to be a part of a student-centered, dynamic outdoor education program to serve as part-time, temporary Outdoor School Educators. The educators will work closely with the SSWC Education staff to help deliver outdoor learning experiences for sixth-grade students from Sweet Home School District. Outdoor School occurs outside of Sweet Home at Camp Tadmor.

This position requires employees to stay overnight during the duration of Outdoor School (May 27th through May 30th). Housing and food are provided. Dietary restrictions cannot be accommodated.

ABOUT US

The South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) was created by residents of the watershed in 1995. The SSWC is a community-based organization that promotes voluntary actions to improve watershed health. The SSWC is a staple in outdoor education for students in East Linn County, and is currently conducting numerous habitat restoration projects throughout the South Santiam Watershed. Learn more about our work at sswc.org.

The SSWC is committed to addressing the inequities inherent in traditional environmental education programs. We continually evaluate and update our education programs to emphasize inclusive and supportive student-centered experiences that are rooted in empathy and respect for the natural world, the participants, and their experiences.

ABOUT OUTDOOR SCHOOL

The South Santiam Watershed Council, in partnership with the United States Forest Service, has been providing Outdoor School for sixth-grade students in the Sweet Home School District for the past 11 years. Outdoor School is a 3-day, 2-night experience centered around outdoor learning and STEAM education standards. Participants work through nine learning stations, led by both paid educators and partner organizations. Learning stations vary per year. Previous learning station topics included fishing, archery, wildlife biology, ecology, forest management, nature art, and river ecology. Outdoor school educators will be in charge of guiding students

through a series of nature journaling related activities and facilitating learning station activities. Other activities include supporting High School Leaders, helping with campers' skit presentations, fireside songs, recreational activities, and more! Days typically run from 6:30 am to 9:30 pm with several opportunities for breaks throughout the day.

TRAINING DATES

Prior to Outdoor School, educators must attend five training sessions led by the SSWC Education Coordinator. Training sessions occur outdoors and at various locations throughout the South Santiam Watershed basin. In addition to the five training sessions, educators must attend one high school camp counselor training session and one teacher's meeting. More information about responsibilities for those events below. All training sessions and teacher meetings are paid.

The training sessions are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| April: 16th | Time: 9 am - 3 pm |
| April: 23rd | Time: 9 am - 3 pm |
| May: 7th | Time: 9 am - 3 pm |
| May: 14th | Time: 9 am - 3 pm |
| May: 21st | Time: 9 am - 3 pm |

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participate in 5 educator training sessions. Dates listed above.
- Attend at least one teacher's meeting.
- Attend at least one high school camp counselor training session.
- Read the Outdoor School curriculum packet and be familiar with the contents.
- Facilitate outdoor learning experiences for up to 20 sixth grade students per learning group. Educators work with one learning group per learning station session.
- Engage students with flexible and dynamic learning experiences to best meet students where they are.
- Help foster community within student learning groups.
- Periodically meet with the Education Coordinator to discuss progress, strategy, and challenges.
- Assist with Outdoor School set up and take down.
- Attend our paid Outdoor School staff and teacher debrief (TBD).

ATTRIBUTES FOR SUCCESS

- Commitment to providing outdoor education experiences that centers participant experience
- Experience working with students from economically and racially diverse backgrounds (including students who are low income, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC))
- Familiarity with forest and river ecology, middle school math concepts
- Ability to adapt and be flexible in content delivery methods and activities
- Ability to be flexible in a dynamic environment

If offered a position, candidates must:

- Pass a criminal background check
- Demonstrate that they have a valid driver's license and vehicle, or ability to arrange reliable transportation to and from the training session sites, high school visits, and Camp Tadmor.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The South Santiam Watershed Council is an equal opportunity employer. All aspects of employment including the decision to hire, promote, discipline, or discharge, will be based on merit, competence, performance, and business needs. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy, genetic information, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other status protected under federal, state, or local law. We believe that diverse perspectives strengthen an organization and encourage people with diverse backgrounds and life experiences to apply.

We recognize that women, people of color, trans and nonbinary folks, and others who identify with communities that have been marginalized are less likely to apply unless they meet all qualifications. We are invested in finding the best person for this position and encourage applicants who are interested in applying to consider their lived experiences, community roles and self-directed learning as part of their qualifications.