



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo Job Description

Job Title: Outdoor Education Specialist

Pay Rate: \$17.00 - \$19.00 per hour

Program Hours: Full-time seasonal position.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Outdoor Education Specialist plays a crucial role in delivering a dynamic and educational experience for youth attending YMCA summer camp programs. This position involves working closely with campers, guiding them through various outdoor activities, and facilitating learning experiences in natural settings. The specialist is responsible for creating a safe and supportive environment where campers can explore, learn, and develop new skills.

OUR CULTURE:

Our mission and core values are brought to life by our culture. In the Y, we strive to live our cause of strengthening communities with purpose and intentionality every day. **We are welcoming:** we are open to all. We are a place where you can belong and become. **We are genuine:** we value you and embrace your individuality. **We are hopeful:** we believe in you and your potential to become a catalyst in the world. **We are nurturing:** we support you in your journey to develop your full potential. **We are determined:** above all else, we are on a relentless quest to make our community stronger beginning with you.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Design and implement outdoor education curriculum that aligns with camp goals and objectives. Develop lesson plans and educational activities that foster environmental stewardship, outdoor skills, and personal growth.
2. Lead and supervise campers in a variety of outdoor activities ensuring activities are safe, engaging, and age-appropriate.
3. Maintain high standards of safety during all outdoor activities. Assess and mitigate risks associated with outdoor environments and adventure-based activities. Obtain or maintain CPR/First Aid certification.
4. Foster leadership skills and personal growth in campers through experiential learning and outdoor challenges. Encourage teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and resilience in a supportive and inclusive environment.
5. Work collaboratively with other camp staff to integrate outdoor education components into overall camp programming. Coordinate with multi-site coordinators, site specialists, and support staff to enhance the camp experience for all participants.
6. Serve as a positive role model for campers, demonstrating enthusiasm, respect for nature, and a commitment to environmental sustainability. Inspire campers to embrace outdoor adventure and lifelong learning.
7. Develop and demonstrate knowledge of child care and/or camp licensing requirements.
8. Commit to expanding your skills and knowledge with required and recommended training.
9. As required by Michigan law, report any suspected incidence of child abuse to the Association OST Director and Children's Protective Services (appropriate legal authority).

The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.



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QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Bachelor's degree in outdoor education, environmental science, recreation management, or related field preferred but not required.
2. Experience working with youth in outdoor education, summer camp, or similar settings.
3. Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
4. Ability to lead and motivate groups in outdoor environments.
5. Knowledge of outdoor safety practices and risk management.
6. Passion for environmental education and outdoor adventure.
7. Must be able to pass comprehensive background check.
8. Waterfront Lifeguard Certification or willingness to obtain.

WORK ENVIRONMENT & PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

- Must be able to participate in outdoor activities with children.
- Ability to work outside in all weather conditions.
- Daily cleaning to maintain a safe and healthy space.
- Proof of negative TB test