



POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Thorne Nature Preschool Summer Camp Teacher
REPORTS TO: Education Programs Director
STATUS: Seasonal, Part-time Employee
START DATE: Training May 16-17, 2020, Camp runs June 1st-July 31st, 2020
PAY: \$17 per hour
LOCATION: Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center, Boulder Colorado
HOW TO APPLY: Fill out an online application at:
<https://thorne.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/staff/App>

Thorne Mission and History:

Thorne Nature Experience is a non-profit organization that is committed to building Earth stewardship by providing youth with joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences that foster an emotional connection to nature. Thorne believes in discovery, exploration, and a connection to the natural world. Founded in 1954, Thorne has a rich history and has reached more than 300,000 children and adults through its Summer Camp, School Programs, Community Programs, and Nature For All Initiative.

Thorne Nature Preschool Mission:

To support the holistic development of young children and their relationship to the natural world, through joyful, hands-on, place-based, developmentally appropriate experiences that nurture the whole child and foster an emotional connection to nature.

Learn more at: www.thornenaturepreschool.org

Job Purpose:

As part of a team of 3 Teachers and 1 volunteer for 15 children, the Thorne Nature Preschool Summer Camp Teacher helps guide children in discovery and ensures the well-being of the children in the preschool summer camp program.

This job is for you if you:

- Are inspired by our mission
- Enjoy engaging with children through outdoor exploration
- Love nature and working outside
- Thrive in a role as a mentor for young children
- Are a highly relational and effective communicator
- Care about equity and diversity
- Enjoy working in a progressive, relational, collaborative, nature loving team of dedicated and talented individuals

Schedule:

- Weeks: June 1-July 31 (skipping the week of June 29-July 3). Thorne is looking for Early Childhood Teachers that can work all 8 weeks that the Preschool Summer Camp in in session
- Hours: 8:30am-1:30pm (program run 9am-1pm)

“Camp Experience” Overview:

With a child to adult ratio of 4 to 1, Thorne’s early childhood qualified staff foster the growth of the whole child (cognitive, physical, social, emotional, creative), while cultivating a profound connection to nature. Through play in nature, children explore, imagine, solve problems, cooperate with others, and build empathy for the natural world, all while developing skills in early literacy, science, math, and social emotional learning. While predictable rituals and routines guide children into learning, this “Camp Experience” allows children’s interests and curiosity to direct the day’s activities and inform the emergent curriculum. Parents can choose a 2 or 3 day per week option, or combine both for a 5 day per week option.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Teach 8 weeks of Thorne Nature Preschool Summer Camp- maintaining a healthy, safe, and positive environment for children utilizing nature as the organizing principal for all learning
- Assist Preschool Lead Teacher with the implementation of daily practices and routines, as well as seasonal, place-based, emergent curriculum that promotes early childhood development and deep nature connection
- Communicate with parents about their child’s development and daily experiences
- Participate in family events and parent orientation programs
- Observe and document children’s progress in the areas of their social, emotional, physical, creative, and cognitive skills and communicate with parents about their child’s abilities and goals
- Ensure the indoor and outdoor learning environments are in good condition to support safe, engaging, rich in experience, and positive child development

Desired Skills and Abilities:

- Passion for outdoor experiences and connecting youth to nature
- Experienced early childhood teacher
- Ability to adapt and be flexible with the changing needs of the program
- Strong communication skills with parents, staff, and children
- Strong decision making skills to respond to risk management, emergencies, or difficult situations
- Ability and desire to implement excellent place-based, child-centered, emergent curriculum
- Good organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks and roles, patiently and professionally

Education/Experience:

- Early Childhood Teacher qualified. To understand requirements, click [here](#)
- Experience working with young children and families in a preschool setting preferred
- CPR, First Aid, Standard Precautions, and Medication Administration certified or be willing to obtain

Required Trainings & Paperwork:

- **Mandatory Thorne Summer Camp Staff training on May 16-17, 2020**
- CPR, First Aid, Standard Precautions, and Medication Administration certified prior to the start of camp
 - **Thorne holds trainings, but does not pay for the time or cost of these certifications**
- Complete all required forms and submit all required information needed by Thorne in compliance with Colorado Department of Human Services Child Care licensing standards, including background check and fingerprints

Special Requirements:

Must be willing to drive preschoolers in a Thorne Approved vehicle to field trips (Thorne will train).

Inclusiveness Statement:

Thorne believes that, to remain relevant as an organization and ensure access to joyful, hands-on, place-based Environmental Education experiences for all youth, its programs, leadership, and participants must reflect the range of diversity, culture, and unique differences in our community.

Anti-Discrimination Statement:

Thorne Nature Experience is an equal opportunity organization. Thorne Nature Experience does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, age, national origin (ancestry), physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender variance or expression, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. This Anti-Discrimination Policy applies to, but is not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers, selection of Board Members, selection of vendors, and provision of services.