

Job Title: Assistant Preschool Teacher
Reports To: Preschool Director
Job Status: 36-40 Hours Per Week; Year Round
Start Date: TBD
Location: Lafayette, Colorado
Compensation: \$18/hour
Benefits: Health and Dental, Short and Long-term Disability, and Life Insurance
403B with 3% Match, Paid Time Off (Vacation, Sick Leave and Holidays)
Dependent Care Assistance Plan, Employee Discount on Thorne programs



To apply: Send resume and letter of interest to Sandra@thornenature.org

Send questions regarding the position to Nature Preschool Manager, Lorene Wapotich, at Lorene@thornenature.org. No phone calls please.

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: The Preschool Assistant Teacher supports the well-being of the children in the school year preschool program and 8 weeks of summer sessions through daily guidance and program support.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Support one group of preschool students along with the Lead Teacher during the preschool program (9am-1:30pm), 5 days per week (M-F)
- Supervise children in the early care program, 8:30am-9:00am, 2-3 days per week
- Supervise children during afternoon rest time 1:30 pm- 3:30 pm, 2 days per week
- Attend weekly staff meetings (Fridays, 2:30-4:30 pm)
- Assist in set-up and clean-up of the program supplies, equipment, and facilities
- Assist Preschool Team with the development and implementation of daily practices and routines, as well as seasonal, place-based, emergent curriculum that promotes early childhood development and deep nature connection
- Participate in family events and parent education programs on occasional weekends or evenings
- Ensure the indoor and outdoor learning environments are in good condition to support safe, engaging, rich in experience, and positive child development
- Attend Preschool and Thorne staff meetings, trainings, teacher work and professional development days

Special Requirements:

- Willing to drive students in a Thorne approved vehicle for field trips as needed (Thorne will train).
- Additional time may be required as necessary, including occasional weekend and evening work for family events

Desired Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of and desire to learn more about early childhood development, nature, and Colorado ecology
- Ability to support excellent place-based, child-centered, emergent curriculum
- Excellent communication skills with parents, staff, and children
- Strong decision-making skills to respond to risk management issues, emergencies, or difficult situations
- Good organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks and roles, patiently and professionally
- Proficient with MS Office suite (Word, Excel, and Outlook)

Desired Behavioral Traits and Attitudes: Team player, fun, outgoing, passionate, organized, creative, patient, empathetic, resourceful, critical thinker, results-oriented, and self-motivated. Passionate about Thorne's mission and environmentally concerned and aware.

Expectation for All Employees:

Support the Thorne mission and exhibit a commitment to:

- Working collaboratively, with integrity and respect for fellow employees, associates, and our communities,
- Embracing personal responsibility and accountability for your job.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Able to be a positive, supportive, caring adult role model for young children
- Comfortable working outdoors and able to take care of self in all weather conditions (including snow, rain, wind, and hot sunny days)
- Previous experience working with preschool aged children
- CPR, First Aid, Standard Precautions, and Medication Administration certified. (Thorne will pay for the time needed to complete and the cost of these certifications)

Required Trainings & Paperwork:

- Complete all required trainings, forms and submit all required information needed by Thorne to comply with Colorado Department of Human Services Childcare licensing standards, including background check and fingerprints. Thorne helps and pays for this process

Compensation and Perks:

- Professional development, training, and skills share opportunities
- Preschool staff receive deals on gear and discounts with several Thorne partners including a local yoga studio and rock-climbing gym.

Working Conditions: This position requires the ability to work outside in various weather conditions. The employee is frequently required to walk, stand, and sit for extended periods of time. This employee will occasionally climb and balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move a young child or supplies weighing 30-50 pounds.

Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of this position.

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.

Equitable Recruiting Policy Statement: Our goal is to increase diversity amongst our staff at Thorne. We do so by providing equal employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other protected characteristic. It is the policy at Thorne to attempt to reach diverse pools of applicants throughout the hiring process by following the Equitable Recruiting Procedure.

Thorne Mission and History: Thorne Nature Experience is a non-profit organization committed to building Earth stewardship by connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences. Founded in 1954, Thorne has a rich history and has reached more than 250,000 children and adults through its Summer Camps, Preschool, In-School Programs, and Field Trip Programs.