



# Discovery Southeast

Hands-on Nature Education for Southeast Alaskans

PO Box 21867, Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 463-1500

[info@discoverysoutheast.org](mailto:info@discoverysoutheast.org)

[DiscoverySoutheast.org](http://DiscoverySoutheast.org)

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Discovery Southeast is hiring a naturalist/educator to lead hands-on nature education classes for elementary and middle school students. This can be a part-time/side job of 5 to 15 hours a week—or it can be a 30+ hours/week position with benefits if a candidate has experience developing curricula, managing programs, and administering grants. The pay is \$21-28/hour, depending on experience.

This should be a great position for someone who enjoys education and the outdoors. It offers a friendly and supportive work environment, and though the position requires responsibility, it can allow a non-traditional schedule or seasonal time off.

The experiences we most value are classroom teaching, leading groups outdoors, developing lessons and a rootedness in Southeast Alaska. Candidates should enjoy being outdoors and be committed to providing students formative experiences in nature. We hope to find someone who is looking for stable employment for several years.

**Background:** For 30 years Discovery Southeast's education and exploration programs have deepened Southeast Alaskans' connection with nature in Lingít Aaní, the traditional lands of the Áak'w & T'aakú Kwáan. We are a regional non-profit started by outdoor leaders in Southeast Alaska to ensure that local residents, particularly children, experience the outstanding natural areas that travelers from around the world come to visit. Today, with many of those same founders still involved, our programs teach children to experience, be comfortable in, and explore nature with a field-based, hands-on approach. We strive to reach all Juneau youth, particularly those who might not otherwise be introduced to the outdoors at a young age. We aim to recruit, retain, and develop staff who bring traditional ecological knowledge, diverse backgrounds, and a mindset of curiosity about the complete history of Southeast Alaska.

**Position Details:** The main duty is work as a Lead Naturalist, teaching seasonal nature education to elementary school classes for either K-2nd or 3rd-5th graders. Additional hours can include: running enrichment programs, developing new programs for middle or elementary schoolers, developing educational materials, and contributing to organizational management (community outreach, fundraising, etc). This position can accommodate weeks or months off during the school year for those who enjoy traveling. Summer work as a day-camp leader makes this a year-round position.

**Responsibilities:**

- For our school Nature Studies programs: Using curriculum developed from Discovery Southeast's 30 year history of providing nature education, and in coordination with classroom teachers, Naturalists plan and teach lessons designed to awaken students to a comfort and connection with nature, and a better understanding of the natural world and their place in it
- For our summer camp, Outdoor Explorers: Being a lead staff for our camp, which includes developing themes, working with a co-lead to plan each week, managing and keeping safe groups of 12 kids, and working full weeks of 100% outdoor day camps

Additional responsibilities may include: providing programming for after school, developing curriculum for Middle School Nature Studies, administrative tasks and other outreach as agreed upon.

***Desired Qualifications:***

- Experience in classroom and/or group management
- Excellent communication and relationship building skills
- An understanding of child development in elementary and middle school
- Ability to work a variety of different program types for a variety of ages
- Experience assessing and managing risk in an outdoor setting, factoring in location, elements, and group abilities
- Ability to manage a complex and variable schedule, coordinating with teachers and co-workers
- Ability to implement age-appropriate activities, lessons and structures and ability to develop additional age and developmentally appropriate curriculum when necessary
- Knowledge of local habitats, natural and cultural history of this place. And a passion for sharing this knowledge
- Understanding of Culturally Responsive and Trauma-informed education
- Traditional ecological knowledge, particularly Lingít knowledge, is highly valued
- A desire to learn and grow with us

To apply: Interested candidates may submit a cover letter and resume to Kelly Sorensen at [education@discoverysoutheast.org](mailto:education@discoverysoutheast.org). More information about our programs is at [DiscoverySoutheast.org](http://DiscoverySoutheast.org).