

Now Recruiting for Environmental Education Specialist

Position Title: Environmental Education Specialist (AmeriCorps member). Eleven-month position from September 2010-July 2011.

Employer: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686, <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat>, phone: 208-467-9278, fax: 208-467-1019

This position is in partnership with Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, an AmeriCorps program of Educational Service District 112. PCEI's mission is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect our region's environment. www.pcei.org

Position Summary:

The Environmental Education Specialist will work with refuge staff and volunteers to develop and expand environmental education (EE) and interpretation opportunities that foster appreciation of, understanding of, and responsibility for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge and other local ecosystems. The member will 1) increase awareness of refuge EE and interpretive programs through outreach to schools, community groups, and families (10% of time), 2) conduct on- and off-site EE programs for pre-K-12 students and community groups (45% of time), 3) coordinate on-site interpretive programs for community groups and the general public, including the Wild About Life lecture series and special events like BioBlitz (25% of time), and 4) develop and sustain partnership(s) with local schools and/or community organizations to encourage area youth to connect with nature through on- and off-site outdoor activities (20% of time).

General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

- Increase awareness of refuge EE and interpretive offerings through outreach to schools, community groups, and families.
- Conduct on- and off-site EE programs for pre-K-12 students and community groups, including day camps, preschool reading programs, monthly Scout Day, and the Idaho Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest.
- Work with partners to develop and/or improve on- and off-site EE programs.
- Research and design curricula that support state educational standards and benchmarks.
- Coordinate a monthly natural history lecture series with invited guest speakers.
- Coordinate special events.
- Recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers to help with EE programs and special events.
- Work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.
- Assist with general office duties related to position (mailings, filing, e-mail, phone calls, etc.).
- Complete and submit all necessary PCEI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Attend and complete all PCEI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, training's, team meetings and national service days.
- Wear a PCEI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Member Benefits include:

- A taxable, monthly living allowance (before taxes, approximately \$1072). (\$11,800 annually upon completion of entire term of service.)
- Free housing available on site.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members receive an education award of \$5,350. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans or for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
- Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
- Basic medical insurance (covers members only, not dependents; vision and dental not included).
- Child care allowance for those who qualify.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
- Reimbursement of up to \$65 for First Aid/CPR Certification
- Funding available for some position-related training.
- Organizational vehicle is available for service activities.

(Continued on Reverse)

Position Requirements:

- Valid driver's license and good driving record. Drive government vehicle as required for position.
- A background in environmental education, wildlife biology, natural resources, or a related field. A bachelor's degree is a plus, but not required.
- Desire to serve with people to promote education, environmental stewardship, and an ethic of service.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations such as: project partner(s), colleagues, community volunteers, students, and the general public.
- A cooperative manner and the ability to serve as part of a team.
- A willingness to ask questions for clarification and job completion.
- A commitment to the goals of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
- Excellent organizational and computer skills.
- Serve occasional evenings and weekends.
- 18 years of age or older, at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
- Must successfully pass a criminal history background check provided through PCEI and/or Project Sponsor Agency.
- Regular and reliable attendance.
- Have not previously served two terms in an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members may serve up to three terms in a National Service Program, but only two terms may be within an AmeriCorps*State or National program. Members are only eligible for an education award for their first two terms of service, regardless of the type of term (full or part-time) and regardless of the successful completion of that term.

Preferred Qualifications:

- An independent, self-motivated, creative, and resourceful individual who enjoys working with diverse groups of people.
- Experience working with the general public and children in indoor and outdoor settings.
- Familiarity with the natural history of southwest Idaho.
- Experience developing and conducting EE and interpretive programs.
- Familiarity with national and state educational standards.
- Ability to speak Spanish a plus.

To apply:

Submit resume, cover letter, 2 written references, and narrative responses to questions at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/ameri-corps.html> to:

Susan Kain, 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686, susan_kain@fws.gov, phone: 208-467-9278, fax: 208-467-1019

Applications must be received by July 2, 2010

For more information on AmeriCorps contact:

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, AmeriCorps Placement Program, PO Box 8596, Moscow, ID 83843, 208.882.1444, erin@pcei.org

Organization's Mission: The mission of Deer Flat NWR is to serve as a refuge and breeding grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife. It is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, whose mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

