



Pond Brook Assistant Teacher

The Willowell Foundation is looking for a passionate outdoor educator to assist at one of our newest programs: Pond Brook Middle School (ages 12-15) . In collaboration with skilled and caring teachers, this position will assist with the dialing operations of this traveling, interdisciplinary middle school.

This is an opportunity for someone to grow their teaching skills and expand on a passion and enthusiasm for place-based outdoor education.

Job Summary:

The Pond Brook Assistant Teacher will work three days a week alongside one of two core teachers, and other guest educators. They will help plan and implement place-based curriculum for grades 7-9 in various settings throughout Addison County.

About Pond Brook:

Pond Brook Project is an approved independent school. Embedded in the natural and human communities of Vermont, the Pond Brook Project inspires adolescent learners to cultivate their relationship to self, society, and the natural world. During each semester at Pond Brook, 12- to 15-year-old students embark on different interdisciplinary explorations of science, society, mathematics, culture, art, literacy, technology and health through the lens of the Vermont landscape. Students spend much of their time in hands-on engagement with the natural world as well as in a variety of creative projects, problem-solving challenges, community service and team building activities. Classes take place around a fire, in woodland yurts, in repurposed school buses, in libraries, on town greens, or around a table in the woods. We see our niche as the liminal space between the individual and society and between humans and the rest of the natural world.

About Willowell:

Willowell is a non-profit organization founded in 2000. Based in Monkton VT, we focus on programming that integrates the arts, humanities, and sciences into outdoor education. We support initiatives for sustainable land use and serve as a resource for local students, teachers, and community members. Willowell programs are committed to diversity and inclusion. We welcome youth of all backgrounds and are currently serving a high rate of LGBTQ+ youth at our outdoor public high school. Further, we realize many youth in Vermont are facing a mental health crisis and we hope to help offset the stresses of this crisis with this new out-of-school-programming.

An eight-person Board of Directors collaborates with the Executive and Administrative Directors to oversee our mission and governance. A small staff of educators and 5 full time AmeriCorps members conduct our programs, which include: The Walden Project outdoor public high school; Wren's Nest Forest Preschool; New Roots Project; Pond Brook Middle School; The Gordon Sculpture Park; The Willowell Community Garden; and Summer Camps. Annually we serve 500-700 students of all ages through varied programs.

The Willowell foundation works to bring people together around self-directed programs that foster environmental awareness and community engagement. Teachers, staff, and AmeriCorps members work directly with students of all ages, from varying socioeconomic backgrounds. Throughout the year we offer camps, workshops, farm to school initiatives, an outdoor public high school, and a nature based preschool.

Qualifications:

- A passion for outdoor education
- Dedication to exploring the natural environment, and some knowledge of local flora, fauna, and seasonal changes to Vermont's landscape
- Ability to work with youth from varying socio economic backgrounds
- Ability to work with youth with varying social and emotional needs
- An interest in working as a team to develop curriculum, communicate with families, and manage students with varying learning styles
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- The ability to adhere to confidentiality and and maintain professional relationships with families and other staff
- Age 20 years or older
- Ability to successfully complete required background checks
- Current First Aid and CPR certificate
- Reliable transportation and the ability to travel to other sites within Addison County

Responsibilities Include:

- Working as a collaborative leader with other Pond Brook staff
- Supporting teaching staff in implementing place-based curriculum, setting up classroom spaces, setting up and maintaining outdoor spaces, making fires, etc.
- Working directly with youth, emphasizing a curriculum that is focused on outdoor skills, self esteem building, and building community
- Attending collaborative meetings and networking with other professionals in the field
- Collaborating with Willowell staff to guide program and build capacity

Compensation and hours:

\$17-\$20 an hour based on experience. Hours will generally run 8:30-3:15 PM with extra planning hours, meetings

To apply, email your resume, cover letter, and three references to pondbrook@willowell.org

For questions contact info@willowell.org

