



PO Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574

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www.pwssc.org

**Education Specialist
Prince William Sound Science Center
Cordova, Alaska**

The Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) is a research and education focused community benefit organization. We strive to advance the understanding and sustainable use of ecosystems through relevant scientific research and hands-on, STEAM-based education. The Science Center's education programs are an opportunity for people to experience the amazing landscape that surrounds us in an educational and exciting way.

PWSSC is looking for an enthusiastic, hardworking Education Specialist to join our education team based in rural Cordova, Alaska. This position provides the opportunity to gain experience with outdoor environmental and hands-on science education programs as well as outreach and public engagement activities. The new member of our team will work with staff to implement school and community education programs to audiences of all ages. Our programs are designed to foster a deeper scientific understanding of the bioregion and build personal connections with the natural world around us.

During school year programs, participants explore and study the local environment and local organisms through classroom sessions, field trips, internships, and extra-curricular opportunities. At summer camp, we hike in the rainforest, observe glaciers up close, canoe through the wetlands, and explore the tide pools and ocean. Adult learners enjoy specially crafted programming led with the intent to inspire. We are dedicated to helping people develop their understanding of the world and themselves through scientific inquiry, positive outdoor experiences, and ecosystem stewardship. During community events we immerse participants in the surrounding ecosystems through group hikes, expose them to current and ongoing research with lectures, or spark their interest through fun family-oriented events.

Position Description

This position takes the lead on some programming and assists in the design and delivery of other programs. PWSSC school year programs currently include our inquiry-based *Discovery Room* (currently engaging grades K-6), *Discovery Outreach* for rural Alaskan communities (grades 6-12), and leading a local team at the Alaska state competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) (grades 9-12). This individual will help create and lead a variety of educational activities during these programs. *Discovery Room* meets ~1 time/month for ~2 hours/grade. The *Discovery Room* program, made possible through a close partnership with Mt. Eccles Elementary school, focuses on a range of topics from habitats to marine animals to ocean technology.



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Summer Programs include: *Discover Cordova* (half-day programs targeting local junior explorers from ages 2-8); *Headwaters to Ocean* day camps and overnight camps (full day programs and overnight programs for grades 2-5 and 6-9 that draw students from around Alaska); *Delta Restoration Team Camp*, also known as D.R.T. Camp (focused on service-learning oriented leadership development of youth entering grades 9-12; this program draws students from both Alaska and throughout the nation); the *Copper River Stewardship Program* (a blend of future Alaskan leaders from both up- and down-river communities throughout the Copper River basin who are entering 9th-12th grades); and hands-on STEM programming offered at summer festivals in Cordova to lifelong learners ages “K through grey”. The education specialist will be involved in all aspects of summer programs including developing new program themes or lessons and assisting summer camp implementation.

This individual will help create a variety of outreach products and public engagement activities including but not limited to newspaper articles, blog posts, and social media posts. This individual will be responsible for scheduling, advertising, and other necessary communication for programs. Opportunities for travel to deliver programs within other Alaskan communities may arise.

This individual will also be responsible for assisting in the development of the Community Organized Restoration and Learning [CORaL] Network. This will involve close collaboration with the CORaL Network partners: Alaska SeaLife Center, Alaska Sea Grant, Alutiiq Museum, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, and Chugach Regional Resources Commission, as well as with EVOSTC-funded scientists, regional community members, and other outreach partners in the area to work towards the sustainability of the collaborative infrastructure proposed by the CORaL Network program.

Essential Functions:

- Create, plan, and implement innovative environmental education activities and curricula for a variety of ages and venues, including but not limited to our current education programs, public education programs, and other programs as they arise
- Assist with design, delivery, and dissemination of Science Center outreach and public engagement products, such as science news publications, radio programs, program promotional materials, and distribution of information across an array of digital and social media platforms as needed
- Generate education, engagement, and outreach content related to the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill impacted area and the ongoing long-term research and restoration programs focused in the spill-affected region
- Assist with and lead programming and delivery of summer camp activities



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- Assist and lead interpretive programs for audiences and groups of all ages and types. Programs and groups could include but are not limited to visiting school groups, cruise ship guests, and other tourists.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Experience teaching in formal and informal settings to a variety of audiences and ages
- Experience working in a camp setting
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively to broad and diverse audiences through written and spoken English
- Desire to work with people, particularly youth
- Dependable and self-motivated
- Flexible, friendly, professional, and patient
- Knowledge of ecological and biological principles, earth systems science, marine biology, and/or related fields & ability to quickly master such subjects where knowledge gaps occur
- Ability to work and collaborate with people of varying backgrounds
- Ability to work independently and in a team setting
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills
- Ability to deal with logistical challenges and multi-task
- Basic outdoors skills
- Bachelor's degree
- Valid driver's license
- Pass a background check and DMV record check
- Computer skills including MS Office applications
- Willingness and capability to work with recording and editing equipment, motors, batteries, and scientific instrumentation
- Knowledge of social media channels and appropriate use thereof
- Ability to cheerfully live and lead programs in a remote location under challenging conditions including cold, rain, wind, and in proximity to large mammals (bears and moose)
- **Applicant must be authorized to work in the United States for any U.S. employer.**

Physical Requirements:

- Must be able to lead groups in indoor and outdoor settings, including hiking on uneven trails, deploying and retrieving sampling devices into bodies of water, etc.



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- Must have current first aid and CPR certification, including child CPR, or ability to obtain such certification
- Must be able to sit, stand, grasp, lift (up to 40 pounds unassisted), carry, walk, push, and pull for short and extended periods of time
- Must be available to travel in- or out-of-state for up to 10 consecutive days up to three times per year.

Compensation and Duration: This is a full-time, hourly, non-exempt position. There is \$45,000 per year in available wages for this position plus benefits. Benefits include medical insurance, paid leave, and employer matching up to 6% of salary in a 403B retirement savings plan. This position is supported by grants and subject to available funding. Three years of funding are anticipated with the possibility of extension. Availability of funding is subject to annual review and authorization.

To apply:

Please submit a current resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references by Friday, August 26th to Lauren Bien at lbien@pwssc.org. Preferred start date is October 3rd.

Questions? Contact:

Lauren Bien, Education Director, PWSSC
(907) 424-5800 x231; lbien@pwssc.org