Trip Leader (Full-Time/Seasonal)

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center (ALNC) seeks engaging and responsible outdoor enthusiasts to co-lead multi-day paddling and backpacking trips for young adventurers. ALNC is a non-profit educational organization guided by Aldo Leopold’s land ethic, with a mission to engage and educate current and future generations, empowering them to respect, protect, and enjoy the natural world. ALNC serves more than 50,000 children, teachers, members, and families annually through year-round programming that includes field trips, camps, a nature preschool, and public and private events.

ALNC is an equal opportunity employer committed to building and serving a more diverse staff and community. Applicants of under-represented backgrounds and identities are encouraged to apply.

Time Commitment: June 6 - August 26, 2022
This full-time seasonal position includes one week of staff training (June 6-10) and eleven weeks of summer camp (June 13-August 26). Trip leaders will co-lead five multi-day camping trips throughout the summer. When not on the trail, trip leaders will work on-site for 20-30 hours a week completing pre- and post-trip tasks, teaching field trips, and assisting with camp activities.

Responsibilities
The primary responsibility of this position is the preparation and facilitation of overnight canoeing and backpacking trips for 11-16 year old campers. Trip leaders are responsible for the physical and emotional well-being of the children in their care and are expected to foster a welcoming environment that is safe, inclusive, and fun for all participants. Additional responsibilities include:

- Exercising good judgement, managing risks, and problem solving on the trail.
- Assessing group dynamics and applying appropriate behavior management techniques.
- Teaching outdoor skills like backpacking, canoeing, cooking, and Leave No Trace principles.
- Collaborating and communicating with other camp leaders on and off the trail.
- Organizing and maintaining all tripping gear.

Qualifications
Ideal candidates will be able to manage a full schedule, work well in a team environment, and represent ALNC in a professional manner. Flexibility, initiative, the ability to problem solve, and a sense of humor are a must.

Required:
• Prior trip planning and camping experience; ability to canoe/backpack 8-10 hours per day.
• Comfortable leading, caring for, and supporting teens/preteens with varying levels of outdoor skills in remote settings.
• Age 21 or older with a valid driver’s licence, clean driving record, and willingness to drive campers in a 15-passenger van.
• Certified in First Aid/CPR and Wilderness First Aid (ALNC will pay for trainings as needed).
• Fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
• Successful candidates must pass a background check and fingerprint screen.

Preferred:
• Degree in environmental education, education, natural science, or a related field. However, experience can supplant a degree, as ALNC values wisdom and experience and understands that this may not come through a formal degree.
• Familiarity with and knowledge of regional flora and fauna.
• Spanish language proficiency.

Compensation
Starting pay is $14 to $16 per hour plus a stipend of $100 per night while on trips. Employees receive one paid holiday (July 4, 2022) during the term of employment.

To Apply
Email cover letter, resume, and three references to Shaina Stewart, Education Manager at shaina@aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org.

Apply by March 1, 2022 for guaranteed consideration; applications will be accepted on a rolling basis after that until positions are filled.