

Heartland

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Heartland Conservation Alliance Seeking Full-time Outdoor Education Coordinator & Blue River Nature Guide

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) is committed to building a diverse staff and strongly encourages applications from candidates of color.

Position available: Outdoor Education Coordinator & Blue River Nature Guide

Work Schedule: Tuesday - Saturday

Do you have a passion and love of the outdoors? Would you like to share your enthusiasm and skills with urban youth and families? At Heartland Conservation Alliance, it is our mission to protect nature in our city for the benefit of all communities. We're a team that works together to engage communities across the Kansas City metro area to develop resilience against climate change and protect green spaces for future generations. Humans need nature, and our team works to make sure all humans have equitable access to nature! Following a three-year pilot project in partnership with AmeriCorps to connect more people with nature, Heartland Conservation Alliance seeks a full-time position that dually serves as the Outdoor Education Coordinator & Blue River Nature Guide.

As the Outdoor Education Coordinator & Blue River Nature Guide, you will be the primary connection between existing environmental educators, communities, and outdoor recreation opportunities, and facilitate consistent guided tours (hikes, bikes, and kayaks) along the Blue River. You will work closely with partners and partner projects already being implemented through support of marketing and outreach activities and coordination. The primary goal of this position is to identify gaps in outdoor education, implement strategies to fill these gaps, and increase community recreation with the Blue River. These activities will successfully impact people's lives with increased access to nature and outdoor experiences.

Application Deadline: Review of applications will begin soon after the posting date. To ensure full consideration, please submit your application by December 29, 2023. Applications will be accepted until a candidate has been selected.

Application Submission Details: All interested applicants should submit short (approximately 75-100 words each) answers to the candidate questions below, a resume, a cover letter and three professional

references in one PDF document to Jalen Holloway, Education & Outreach Program Manager, jalen@heartlandconservationalliance.org or call (816)945-8505 Ext.104

Candidate Questions. Please answer each question in approximately 75-100 words:

- What does blending conservation and outdoor recreation look like to you?
- Describe a time when an individual or organization did a great job engaging with the community. What made it great?
- Why do you think it's essential for urban youth and families to experience nature and the outdoors?
- Describe a gap in outdoor education that you've noticed. How would you approach eliminating that gap?

Compensation: This position's salary is \$43,480 with a competitive benefits package for full-time employees, including 10 paid holidays, 15 days per year of paid time off, 12 weeks of paid parental leave, as well as employer contribution of \$500/month to organization's health, dental, vision and life insurance plans. Regular work schedule is Tuesday-Saturday to support weekend programming.

Outdoor Education Coordinator 70%

- Plan and implement approximately 10 annual Outdoor Education events.
- Coordinate and lead additional large events with support of the Education Outreach Program Manager.
- Recruit community members to experience the outdoors and connect to nature from our eight action areas.
- Working with the Education & Outreach Program Manager to promote events, hold focus groups, attend training and conferences, participate in community events and meetings, partner with schools or youth programs to present outdoor education programs supporting their curriculum, track and analyze results through feedback surveys following each event.
- Focus on relationship building with Alliance members, conservation partners and the urban community. Activities will include attending community meetings, hosting focus groups, interviewing community leaders, participating in partner meetings and events, and surveying partners and community members.

Blue River Nature Guide 30%

- Establish regular public and private group hikes, bikes, or kayak tours (as weather appropriate) on or near the Blue River (minimum of 1 per month),
- Routinely monitor weather conditions before an event.
- Coordinate appropriate staffing/partners for those activities, support HCA or partner events that promote hiking, biking, or kayaking on or near the Blue River, particularly for Environmental Justice communities, older adults with the greatest social and economic needs, and people with mobility challenges.
- Assist in managing the budget for each of these events.
- This position will also support outreach and other HCA programs as requested, but is not inclusive of all duties that may be assigned.

Qualifications: We are looking for candidates who are self-motivated, organized and highly independent. Someone who is ready to take on new tasks, and can craft a great narrative; plus wants to keep improving their engagement, teaching, professional development and management experience.

A successful applicant will enjoy the outdoors, be a team player and able to work independently in diverse urban communities. Confidence in delivering programming to diverse audiences, public speaking, organizing events, coordinating volunteers and conducting research.

Qualifications may be met with college or university degree programs, significant related professional or volunteer experience, related certification programs, skills courses or a combination of these.

The following skills are considered a bonus to the job, but are not required. Current ability or a strong desire to learn these skills would enhance community outreach:

- Background in community engagement and experience working with diverse communities
- Implementation of DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) strategies of communication and engagement
- Experience leading outdoor recreation activities, experience with youth preferred.
- Fluency in one of the following languages: Spanish, American Sign Language, Black American Sign Language, Hindi, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Swahili, and French.
- First Aid, CPR and other outdoor readiness training and/or experience

Working Conditions:

- Duties are performed in the office and in the field.
- Ability to lift at least 50 lbs.
- Work in the field takes place in all weather conditions, unless deemed otherwise.
- A form of reliable transportation is required as there is some travel involved to various locations in the region for events, meetings, conferences, workshops, and speaking engagements. HCA can work with the candidate to acquire rental service for out-of-town engagements, process reimbursement requests, and/or assistance in acquiring a bus pass. Due to the nature of HCA's events, many engagements can be reached through carpooling and coordination.
- Additional evening and weekend work is occasionally required.

Contact Person

Jalen Holloway, Outreach & Education Program Manager

Contact Phone

(816) 945-8505 Ext. 104

Contact Email

jalen@heartlandconservationalliance.org

Heartland Conservation Alliance is an equal opportunity employer. This position description is not inclusive of all duties that may be assigned.