



Environmental Educator 2025

The Ridges Sanctuary is hiring an environmental educator to support our robust [Forest Days](#) Program held in partnership with Gibraltar Public School. We're looking for someone with a passion for environmental education, excellent communication and teaching skills and the ability to work collaboratively with The Ridges Team. The Ridges seeks someone who has a desire to grow with the Ridges, especially while we grow our operation as outlined in our [20-year Master Plan](#).

As a leading voice for conservation action, the mission of The Ridges Sanctuary is to promote positive environmental behaviors through impactful educational experiences, land protection and management, and ecological research. The Ridges was established in 1937 after Albert Fuller, then Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum, began spending a significant amount of time surveying the landscape. Fuller spearheaded a grassroots movement to protect this incredibly diverse property and establish Wisconsin's oldest member-based land trust. This grassroots movement still drives the organization today. The Ridges Sanctuary now protects 1,700+ acres of the Midwest's most biologically diverse ecosystems and serves as a leading voice for conservation action in the region. Our campus features 5 miles of rustic trails, rare wildflowers, historic Range Lights, indoor exhibits, and an accessible boardwalk among more.

Joining our team means becoming part of an organization committed to creativity, teamwork, and excellence. Our goal is to foster a supportive and inclusive work culture where every team member can thrive and contribute to our ongoing success.

Position Summary

The Ridges Sanctuary is looking to hire a motivated environmental educator with primary responsibilities in developing and leading Forest Days – an educational program built in collaboration with the local public schools that engages students grades PreK-6th grade in their school forest each month throughout the school year. This position will be focused on the environmental education experiences for students at Gibraltar Public School while also supporting our summer camp, and other environmental education opportunities throughout the year as the schedule allows.

Duties & Responsibilities

Forest Days

- Develop focused lesson plans and teach Forest Days for grades 4K – 6th grade at Gibraltar Public School using the public school adopted Forest Days Curriculum.

- Work collaboratively with public school teachers to establish expectations for students, teachers and parent helpers.
- Create alternative teaching plans in the event that weather or circumstances prevent the program from being outdoors or in the forest.
- Act as a liaison between The Ridges Sanctuary and Gibraltar Public School.

Educational Programming

- Support ongoing programming at The Ridges including Backpack Adventure Camp in the summer for children ages 4-11, as well as guided Sanctuary tours, group tours, and special events when available and as the schedule allows.
- Assist in preparing written communications and verbal presentations relating to environmental education and programming.

Visitor Engagement

- Support the visitor experience by being available to answer questions.
- Function as an at large ambassador for The Ridges Sanctuary when interacting with guests, answering questions and assisting with directions, etc. as they arise.

OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED

Candidate Profile & Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in environmental education or relevant field or equivalent experience in developing and delivering environmental education curriculum and programs.
- Energetic and enthusiastic personality to help motivate children and collaborate with co-workers.
- Knowledge of local natural history preferred.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Withstand the physical demands of work which involves some lifting, carrying, bending, and hiking across uneven terrain.
- Must pass a criminal background check.

Additional Notes and Relevant Information

- Affordable Housing is available for the start of this position.
- Preferred start date is April 7th, 2025, but we will be flexible for the right candidate.

How to Apply

Please send a cover letter and resume electronically to katie@ridgessanctuary.org with the subject line "Environmental Educator" by March 18th, 2025. Applications will be reviewed upon submission and accepted until the position is filled.

The Ridges Sanctuary is an equal opportunity employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally-protected status.