



Community Science Educator - Fall 2021

Part-Time Seasonal Staff Position

Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC) is a community-based non-profit organization that serves as an environmental steward for the Gowanus Canal watershed. The **Community Science Educator** will support the Gowanus Canal Conservancy's (GCC) water quality testing program. Serving as the lead instructor for middle and high school groups, the Educator is supported by the GCC Engagement Manager, GCC Programs & Education Director, and interns and volunteers to carry out the program. This program may be conducted in person, virtually, or a combination of both during Fall 2021, contingent on school field trip policies and the needs of participating teachers.

Community Science Program Description

In-Person Field Trips: Students from 5-6 partner schools visit GCC in Fall 2021 at the 2nd Ave Salt Lot to conduct water quality testing on samples from the Gowanus Canal. In 90 minute sessions, each school group will test water samples with parameters that may include salinity, temperature, turbidity, nitrate, phosphate, and dissolved oxygen. Samples for enterococcus tests are processed at a lab, and students are later provided with the data. Students learn what each parameter means, how to use test equipment, and how to collect data and read results using the Gowanus Canal as a field site. Students learn about NY Harbor water quality and how combined sewer overflow (CSO) affects water quality. Students also learn how green infrastructure can reduce CSO and the critical role of community scientists in advocating for waterways.

Virtual Field Trips: Alternatively, students may participate in a synchronous (in real time) 45-60 minute virtual field trip over Zoom. Students will explore the importance of water quality in Gowanus and NY Harbor, how data can give us a picture of water quality, and some solutions we can all work on for cleaner, healthier waterways. Teachers are provided pre-post lessons to support student learning outcomes and engagement.

Responsibilities

Planning and Lesson Development

- Plan lessons and materials using and building on already developed curriculum and materials

Meetings & Coordination

- Coordinate with and communicate with Engagement Manager on field trip scheduling and logistics
- Meet with Program Staff during scheduled meetings to plan and review program lessons and materials
- Participate in end of season evaluation meeting to discuss program outcomes

Training & Teaching

- Lead training for interns and program volunteers who may assist small groups of students in WQ testing activities
- Lead and plan a professional development workshop (possibly in-person, virtually, or a combination) for 10-12 participating middle and/or high school teachers, focused on water quality testing methods and Gowanus water quality issues
- Lead instruction for 45-60 minute virtual field trips and/or 90 minute outdoor field trips at the Gowanus Canal for up to 15 students
- Assist in evaluating student outcomes from field trips

Physical Requirements

- In person field trips are performed outdoors in an urban environment. Employee will potentially experience adverse weather conditions including heat, cold, rain, and snow
- Requires using water quality testing equipment where carelessness could result in injury; standing or walking for extended periods of time; stooping, bending, kneeling, crouching, lifting, pushing, and/or pulling; use of manual dexterity and fine motor skills
- Requires moderate physical exertion - lifting, pushing, and carrying, etc. up to 20 lbs to set up outdoor classroom environment
- Requires communicating information with co-workers, students, teachers; reading correspondence and/or instructions; writing correspondence and/or reports and curriculum and filling in forms; using video platforms to teach

Qualifications

- 2-5 years of middle/high school level teaching experience in informal or formal learning environments with strategies to differentiate instruction among diverse learners (may include multilingual learners and students with special needs)
- Strong competency with basic water quality testing parameters, methods, data and equipment is essential.
- Strong knowledge of estuary ecosystems and NYC waterways
- Ability to engage students in a virtual/remote-learning setting with developmentally appropriate activities if needed
- Experience with lesson planning and/or curriculum development, with Culturally Responsive Teaching knowledge a plus
- Passion for cultivating environmental stewardship among youth
- Ability to train volunteers in the field
- Collaborative, creative, generative, efficient team player who is able to meet deadlines
- Computer skills using Google Suite (including Google Docs, Sheets and Slides) and Zoom.

Required Technology

The contractor will need access to a working laptop or desktop computer and a reliable internet connection in order to deliver programs through remote learning platforms such as Zoom or Google Meet.

Hours & Compensation

This is a part-time, seasonal position, which pays \$25 an hour for an average of 10-15 hours per week. This position starts September 1st and ends December 15th. All administrative work and meetings can take place remotely and with flexible hours.

Tentative schedule:

- September 1 - September 30th - Staff orientation and program planning; this can be mostly remote and flexible hours. Some outdoor site visits to the Salt Lot may take place.
- October 1 - December 10th - Field Trips (virtual and/or in-person), 9am-1pm some Monday - Fridays (in person trips contingent on school field trip policies and teacher demand). For in-person trips we will designate two days of the week (tbd). The number of field trips the educator teaches remotely will be dependent on the number of booking requests we receive. Flexible weekday availability is a plus.
- December 11th - 15th - Program evaluation meeting (remote)

To Apply

Send your resume and a cover letter to: education@gowanuscanalconservancy.org. Include your schedule and weekday availability. You may include optional materials to support your application, such as related lesson plans or curriculum. Selected candidates will be contacted for a video interview conducted on Zoom. Early applications are encouraged and interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis starting in August. The deadline to apply is August 20, 2021