



[www.springriverschool.org](http://www.springriverschool.org)

**Teaching Assistant in an All-Outdoors Homeschool Program inspired  
by Waldorf Education**

Status: Part-time/Hourly

Reports to: Class Teacher and Program Director

About Spring River School

Spring River School, established in 2015 as part of The Playgarden Community, and now its own nonprofit organization, serves approximately 90 students in grades K-7 from all over the Jacksonville, FL area. We are adding grade 8 in the 2022-2023 school year. We also offer a weekly Forest Immersion program for homeschoolers in grades K-3 which will become a 2-day offering in the fall of 2022.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, Spring River took our programming 100% outdoors and is the only "All Outdoor School" in Northeast Florida. Our families are registered homeschoolers, and we believe that is what serves our community best at this time; however, our strategic plan includes steps toward Florida Independent School status and AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America) accreditation in the future that will also include a rich and flexible homeschool option. Our pioneering teachers are supported by a Program Director and dedicated administrative staff, a committed board of directors, and a vibrant volunteer community. We offer hands-on creative programming inspired by Waldorf Methods of learning, meeting each family with warmth and joy.

Spring River supports and embraces diversity in all of its forms, including differences in ethnicity, cultural and religious heritage, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, geographic origin, and family structure. We provide our students with a rich, inclusive curriculum that reflects the world in which we live and fosters a safe atmosphere where every member of the community is respected, and multiple viewpoints can be peacefully expressed. Diversity within our community is an asset. For this reason, we actively cultivate this diversity in all aspects of school life including the composition of our student body, staff, and leadership. We commit to work through the tensions that arise in the midst of genuine community and to use those tensions as a vehicle to self-reflect critically and fearlessly. We believe this commitment to diversity will help prepare today's children for tomorrow's world.

Our Mission: To encourage independent thought, nourish imagination and cultivate social responsibility.

Our Vision: An educational experience that embodies a reverence and respect for the intellectual, artistic, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual life of each student.

Position Summary

The Spring River teaching assistant (TA) will work under the direction of the Class Teacher in the

designated local park (outdoor classroom) including set up and clean up. The TA will assist the class teacher by setting an example in the outdoor classroom of patience, kindness, and openness, fostering confidence, and helping students grasp basic concepts for their grade level. This level of teaching involves interactive learning with games, artistic activity, visual aids, music, and other tools to keep students engaged and challenged. The TA may be asked to take small groups of students aside for focused learning and/or artistic activities.

#### Classroom responsibilities:

- Prompt and regular attendance is an essential duty and responsibility of this position.
- Assist Class Teacher with arrival and dismissal procedures.
- Assist in the set-up and clean-up of an outdoor classroom.
- Assist in the maintenance of a safe harmonious social environment for the students
- Assist in the preparation of Seasonal Festivals and (if grade appropriate) class plays.
- Must be fully present and aware of children and surroundings at all times.
- Help Class Teacher prepare and lead daily activities such as circle, story, watercolor painting, drawing, gardening, mathematics, science, and nature activities. ● Help Lead teacher prepare and lead daily activities such as outdoor cooking, baking, nature, and beach day/forest hikes.
- Visually check the daily location for trash and safety hazards. Assist in clean up and/or relocating as needed.
- Carry a cell phone at all times.
- Dress appropriately for the weather.

#### Skills

Being a TA requires patience, creativity, and a commitment to teamwork with the Class Teacher. TA's should understand how to communicate with children, and be willing to learn how to efficiently address behavioral problems. The TA must be able to hold confidentiality and professionalism with the parent/teacher bond, be able to work in a team setting with colleagues, follow school guidelines and policies, and have good communication skills.

#### Other responsibilities

- Participate in bi-weekly staff meetings.

#### Required Qualifications

- A deep love for children, respect for parents, enjoyment of working in collaboration with colleagues, joy, and enthusiasm in your work, and a commitment to self-development. ● Good written and interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to work effectively with a diverse range of people
- Commitment to Waldorf Education
- Must be comfortable spending 100% time outdoors in all weather.

#### Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Education
- The willingness to complete the necessary outdoor safety training.
- 1+ years teaching experience

Physical Demands The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the Essential Duties of this job. Reasonable accommodation may be made for individuals with disabilities to perform the Essential Duties.

- Arrives ready to work at the scheduled time and is rarely absent unexpectedly
- Able to have the full range of motion to locate children and examine the environment for hazards.
- Position self as needed including bending, crouching, kneeling, lifting, reaching.
- Able to move classroom supplies in and out of building/classroom space each morning/afternoon.
- Able to work in outdoor weather conditions for an extended period of time.
- Actively supervise students with focus even when distractions are present.
- Frequently communicate with students, parents, colleagues, and leadership.

Work Environment

- The Essential Duties of this job are performed outdoors. Some duties are done at home on a computer.
- Schedule to be determined on an annual basis, full school calendar to be provided.

NOTE: This job description indicates the general duties and physical requirements of work performed by the employee with this job designation. It should not be interpreted or construed as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and physical requirements required of the employee assigned to this job, as these might vary from day to day or as business needs demand.

EOE Statement: We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

It is the policy of Spring River School to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, disability, status as a covered veteran, or any other legally protected status, in accordance with federal and state law, and not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruitment, hiring, placement, compensation, benefits, promotion, demotion, layoff, termination, and all other terms and conditions of employment.