



springriverschool.org

Forest School Lead Teacher of Grade School Children in an all outdoors Homeschool K-8 Grades Program inspired by Waldorf Education

Status: Salaried, part-time

Salary: \$8,000-\$10,000

Hours: 16 per week for 36 weeks, (Wed/Th) plus attendance once a week at Staff Meeting.

More hours may be available combined with other positions at the school.

Salary is scaled based on experience, certification, and education

Reports to: Program Director

Position Summary

Spring River is seeking a qualified and motivated individual to serve as a Forest School lead teacher for Grades 1-5. Candidates must possess a commitment to personal and professional development and an enthusiasm for collegial work. This person will work as part of a committed team of teachers and be an active member of our school community. Teachers in our school make a significant commitment to their classes, both in endeavoring to know their students well and in bringing a rich and solid academic curriculum as a whole. This involves creating a productive relationship with parents, and a cooperative relationship with colleagues. The Lead Forest Teacher will play a vital part in their students' development, setting the standard for their experience of learning, fostering confidence, and helping them to grasp basic concepts for their grade level. This level of teaching involves interactive learning with games, artistic activity, visual aids, and other tools to keep students engaged and challenged. The teacher will instruct students of varying learning levels and may be asked to teach in a combined grade grouping.

Nature immersion "classroom" responsibilities:

- Arrive on-site each day with time to set up necessary gear and supplies to prepare for student arrival.
- Prepare and plan annual and daily rhythm and choose local parks and preserves that are suitable for nature immersion activities.
- Prompt and regular attendance is an essential duty and responsibility of this position. Assist in setup and clean up of "classroom".
- Participate in bi-weekly staff meetings.
- Must be fully present and aware of children and surroundings at all times.
- Prepare and lead daily activities such as circle, story, watercolor painting, drawing, gardening, mathematics, science, and nature activities.
- Prepare and lead daily activities such as outdoor cooking, baking, nature and beach hikes, special outdoor activities like kayaking, fishing, camping, and building fires, depending upon the unfolding rhythm and festivals of the year.
- Plan & lead arrival and dismissal procedures
- Visually check the daily location of Forest school for trash and safety hazards. Assist in cleanup and/or relocate as needed.
- Become familiar with Forest school locations, trails, and bathrooms.

- Carry a backpack always, equipped with a first aid kit and NE Florida Snake, Insect, and Plant guides.
- Carry a cell phone at all times.
- Dress appropriately for weather and activities – Swimsuit, rash guard, hiking shoes, shorts and pants, Bog boots, rain pants, rain jacket, and hat, down or similar jacket for cold weather.
- Have consistent & regular communication with the Program Director via cell phone and email, and a working voicemail and communication device.
- Order and provide supplies that meet program requirements.
- Communicate with park and preserve staff
- Develop and maintain a safe harmonious social environment for the students
- Adhere to and follow safety guidelines and emergency action plans

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Track attendance for students.
- Track and Document behavior (per school Discipline policy) as needed
- Communicate with parents weekly via email/newsletter format.
- Attendance and participation in weekly faculty meetings, and two in-service sessions, and the beginning and end of each academic year.
- Participate in committee work for the school.
- Participate in parent conferences (if needed)

Skills

Teaching requires patience, creativity, a knack for organization and multitasking, and time management. Forest School Teachers should understand how to motivate and communicate with children, as well as how to efficiently address behavioral problems and practice positive group management. Teachers should also be well-versed in current teaching trends and approaches, and able to tailor their teaching methods to the needs of a specific individual or class. The Forest School Teacher must be able to hold confidentiality and professionalism with the parent/teacher bond.

Other responsibilities

- All teachers share responsibility for the well-being of the school. Aspects of this responsibility are:
 - Service on at least one faculty committee. First-year teachers are exempt from this requirement.
 - Be available and willing to participate in the enrollment process of new students in areas such as student interviews, parent interviews, student assessments, and arranging for prospective student class visits.
 - Help to expand enrollment by attending open houses and fundraising events throughout the school year.
 - Support currently enrolled families by participating in a parent orientation before the start of each class year along with other teachers.
 - Participate in Program Development for the future school year.

Preferred 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.
- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university
- Waldorf Education Certification or the willingness to complete Waldorf Education Certification
- Outdoor Education Experience and Certification
- Wilderness Training
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to work effectively with a diverse range of people
- 2+ years previous classroom 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
- Will need a vehicle that can transport needed materials and gear to and from meeting spaces.
- Able to have a full range of motion to be able to locate children and examine the environment for hazards.
- Able to move classroom supplies in and out of the building/vehicle each morning/afternoon.
- Must be able to be outdoors, on their feet, for a minimum of 6 hours per day in all kinds of inclement weather while being physically active
- Must be capable of assisting in lifting, holding, and carrying a child up to 55 lbs.
- Must be capable of lifting an outdoor wagon weighing 20-30 lbs.
- Must be capable of carrying a backpack weighing up to 20 lbs. for up to 6 hours.
- Must have the stamina to hike/explore in temperatures anywhere from 35F to 100F
- Must be able to swim/be able to rescue any children in danger (meeting Lifeguard Certification requirements)
- Must be able to reach and lift overhead, bend, stoop, climb trees and other natural structures and kneel
- Must be physically capable of crouching and crawling
- Use hands to finger, grasp, feel, or otherwise manipulate objects, tools, or controls.
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Work Environment

- All duties will be performed outdoors. Some administrative duties are to be 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.

About Spring River School

Spring River School is an initiative of Jacksonville Educational Community, a non-profit educational organization. Spring River was founded by parents and local educators from the community who were driven by a common desire to create a transformative educational experience focused on the whole-child approach. This led to the creation of Jacksonville's first Waldorf-inspired K-8 outdoor education program.

We began in 2014 by gathering in local parks for seasonal community festivals and parent education study groups. The following year we began offering homeschool enrichment classes that included World Languages, Movement, Handwork, Nature Immersion, and Dramatic Arts. Based on the needs of our growing community, we expanded to include a full offering of academic main lessons and enrichment classes, all taught by experienced professional educators. We also developed the area's first K-5 Nature Immersion Forest School, which meets in local preserves and parks.

Spring River was established out of love and respect for childhood and a common understanding that teaching is an art. We serve approximately 100 students from all over the Jacksonville area. We are excited about our newest offering: Spring River's Dewdrops, an unstructured parent-led playgroup with outdoor meet-ups once a week at local parks. This playgroup is for caregivers and their young children, ages birth to 5.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, Spring River took our programming 100% outdoors on daily field trips 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, while still continuing to serve and support our homeschooling families.

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.