



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

### **Forest School Teaching Assistant**

Outdoor Education Program Inspired by Waldorf Education (Grades K–8)

Status: Part-Time, Hourly, Non-Exempt

Rate of Pay: \$18/hr

Benefits: 15% Tuition Remission on Days worked

Reports to: Forest School Lead Teacher

### **Position Summary:**

Spring River School is seeking a nurturing, capable, and enthusiastic **Teaching Assistant (TA)** to support our outdoor, Waldorf-inspired homeschool enrichment program. The TA will work directly alongside the Lead Forest Teacher in one of our local “outdoor classrooms”—beautiful parks and preserves in Northeast Florida. This position supports the social and academic growth of children in a multi-age, nature-based learning environment.

Teaching Assistants serve as role models of patience, warmth, and engagement, while helping implement the curriculum through hands-on, artistic, and movement-rich experiences. The ideal candidate is adaptable, dependable, and comfortable working in all weather conditions.

### **Key Responsibilities**

#### **Instructional Support & Outdoor Leadership**

- Support the Lead Teacher in all aspects of teaching and outdoor classroom management
- Assist with nature-based learning activities including circle, story, art, gardening, math, science, and seasonal crafts
- Participate in nature hikes, beach exploration, outdoor cooking, and other special activities (e.g., kayaking, fire building, camping)
- Supervise children while using tools (e.g., knives, bow drills, ferro rods)
- Take small groups for focused learning activities as directed
- Maintain a safe and respectful classroom culture

#### **Operations & Logistics**

- Assist in setup and cleanup of the outdoor learning space
- Visually inspect learning sites for hazards; help clean and/or relocate as needed
- Know the trails, facilities, and safe zones of each forest school location

- Carry a well-stocked backpack including a first aid kit and Florida field guides
- Dress for all weather (rain gear, boots, warm layers, sun protection, swimwear)
- Be punctual, present, and fully engaged throughout the school day

### **Communication & Collaboration**

- Maintain regular communication with the Lead Teacher and School Administrator
  - Attend bi-weekly staff meetings
  - Support program development, enrollment events, and parent orientations as needed
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### **Required Qualifications**

- Deep love for working with children and a joyful, grounded presence
- Commitment to Waldorf education and outdoor learning philosophies
- Reliable, team-oriented, and open to feedback
- Comfortable being outdoors in all weather and physically active for extended periods

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Education or related field
- Waldorf Teacher Training (or willingness to pursue)
- 1+ years of experience working with children in an educational or outdoor setting
- Lifeguard, CPR/First Aid, or Wilderness First Aid certifications

### **Physical Requirements**

This role is physically demanding. Candidates must be able to:

- Be on their feet for a minimum of 6 hours per day
- Lift and carry children (up to 55 lbs) and gear (up to 30 lbs)
- Carry a backpack (~20 lbs) during hikes
- Hike in temperatures ranging from 35°F to 100°F
- Swim and assist in water-related safety situations
- Bend, kneel, climb trees, and engage in active, nature-based play

### **Work Environment**

- All duties take place outdoors, rain or shine
- School calendar and schedule provided annually

## **About Spring River School**

Spring River School, a program of Jacksonville Educational Community, is Florida's first Waldorf-inspired, all-outdoor K–8 homeschool enrichment initiative. We offer forest immersion for grades K–8, parent-child classes, a two-day homeschool program, and a developing high school track. Our curriculum is rooted in reverence for nature, artistic expression, and the developmental needs of children.

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.

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.

## **Equal Opportunity Statement**

Spring River School is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and do not discriminate based on race, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation.