



## KEEN's Earth Explorers

### Outdoor Education Leaders (2 to 3 positions)

***Important Note: these positions are dependent upon registrations for fall. We anticipate knowing if we will be hiring by the end of August 2020.***

**Job Description:** The Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) seeks two to three Outdoor Education Leaders to join our Environmental Educators to facilitate outdoor learning experiences for local elementary and middle school students during the school year of 20-21.

KEEN's Earth Explorers is a series of week-long day camps that will take place at Helen McCabe State Park from September 9<sup>th</sup> through then end of the 2021 school year following normal holiday and school calendars for the Ellensburg School District.

Outdoor Education Leaders should have an interest in education, outdoor learning, and working with children of different ages ranging from Kindergarten to middle school. Candidates should also be prepared for vigorous outdoor activity during the all seasons of the Central Washington climate. Camp is held at Helen McCabe State Park near Ellensburg and has no indoor spaces. This is true outdoor education immersion.

**Essential Position Functions:** The primary responsibilities of the Outdoor Education Leaders will be to support the Environmental Education Director in facilitating outdoor learning experiences for children. The Outdoor Education Leaders will:

- Facilitate learning for a group of campers that includes:
  - Standards-aligned outdoor activities
  - Educational and recreational games
  - Field investigations
- Assist in the oversight of the safety of students during activities
- Assist in collection of program assessment and evaluation data
- Be able to work outdoors, during hot weather, cold weather, and all conditions, in vigorous and athletic situations
- Possess boating, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor skills

- Be able to confidently share experiential learning opportunities (identifying local flora and fauna, climate, habitat, and other natural interpretive opportunities encountered at Helen McCabe Park)

**Required Skills and Qualifications:** The successful candidate will:

- Be dependable, self-motivated, and well-organized
- Have experience working with Kindergarten-9<sup>th</sup> grade students preferably in a camp or outdoor learning environment
- Be able to manage outdoor learning experiences, identify any safety concerns, and comply with relevant safety policies
- Be in possession of a valid driver's license, clean driving record, and a reliable vehicle
- Be able to pass a criminal background check to work with youth

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Experience or education in Environmental Education, Science Education, or related field
- First aid training
- Experience in camp environments – either as a camper or as a counselor
- Teacher or student working to achieve a teaching degree
- Spanish language proficiency preferred

**Position Duration, Schedule, & Benefits:** This is a 20-40 hour/week, school-year position that begins on August 31 2020 through June 18, 2021. The Ellensburg School District Calendar will be followed for holidays and breaks. There will be opportunities to work for KEEN during camps that will be offered during the school year and the summer of 2021. The wage rate for Camp Counselor is \$18.50/hour. KEEN is not able to offer health care benefits or paid time off at this time, however, every employee in the State of Washington is entitled to 1 hour of sick leave for every 40 hours worked.

**To Apply:** A complete application will include a cover letter, resume, and a list of three references emailed to [kittitasee@gmail.com](mailto:kittitasee@gmail.com).

**Application Deadline:** These positions are open until filled. Application review will begin on August 17, 2020.

**About KEEN:** KEEN was established as a 501(c)3 in 2000 and have been operating in Kittitas County as an all-volunteer organization for the past 20 years.

Our mission is to cultivate an active awareness and understanding of the endangered shrub-steppe, provide nature-based education for all ages, and strengthen commitment to environmental stewardship.

Our primary goal is to establish (design, construct and operate) the Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center near Ellensburg, WA. The Interpretive Center will serve as the gathering place for our

community, for visitors to our community, and for engaging and connecting to nature in Central Washington. As the gateway to the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway, the Interpretive Center will invite lifelong learners to become active informed citizens, and provide a sense of place to this land we love.

KEEN believes in lifelong-learning and provides informal educational opportunities for kids, adults and seniors. KEEN hosts the annual Get Intimate with the Shrub-Steppe event; a series of expert-led field trips, lectures and educational booths that highlight the surrounding endangered landscape, plant and animal communities, weather and geology that together create such a strong sense of place for Central Washington.

KEEN also hosts the annual Winter Fair; an environmental farmers market that celebrates the intersection of environment, education and economy. Additionally, KEEN convenes informal environmental educators and their organizations in our area to plan our annual event calendars, share best practices and connect volunteers with opportunities to volunteer.

Nature School programs include summer camp, 4th grade camp, and outdoor pre-school (run in partnership with Washington Outdoor School). Our Pond to Pines Summer Nature Day Camp is in its 5th year of operation! Hundreds of kids 'get outside' for camp each year. We fill up - register early!

Our Stewardship Team takes care of Helen McCabe Memorial State Park - the future home of the Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center.

KEEN consists of a Board of Directors of highly committed individuals, and several active committees that focus on specific tasks/projects (40+ people). Geographically KEEN focuses our work on Kittitas County, but KEEN is active in partnering with groups that expand down the Yakima River Valley through Yakima and Benton Counties.