

DESE Outdoor Education Specialist

Short Description of Job: The Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative is taking applications for the position of an Outdoor Education Specialist. This position will include state-wide travel. Allowed travel expenses are reimbursed to the employee. The Outdoor Education Specialist provides leadership, instructional support, and professional development to teachers in the areas of STEM, Science, and outdoor recreation and conservation. This role is responsible for developing and implementing the Arkansas Outdoor Education Initiative in collaboration with partner organizations and Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE).

Salary is commensurate with experience, range \$70,000. Southwest Co-op is an EOC employer. This is a 12-month grant funded position – (260 days)

Duties:

- **Instructional Support and School Improvement**
 - Collaborate with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Education Division to continue to develop, implement, and evaluate the Arkansas Outdoor Education Initiative.
 - This position will bring experience in outdoor recreation and conservation specifically in the Natural State.
 - This position will align outdoor education practices and core competencies to the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards.
 - The position will collaborate with the Department of Career and Technical Education and supporting partner organizations to develop and implement the Outdoor Career and Technical Education Pathway.
 - Work in collaboration with staff from multiple state agencies to design the outdoor learning initiative and manage the recruitment and applications of K-12 public, public-charter, private, and home schools to participate in the program.
 - Bring outdoor recreation and conservation experiences with students and teachers.
 - Provide classroom coaching and model effective instructional strategies aligned with outdoor education best practices.
 - Analyze student data to inform outdoor education instruction and identify areas for improvement.

- **Curriculum Alignment**
 - Collaborate with the AGFC Education Division to continue to develop and evaluate the outdoor education curriculum for the Arkansas Outdoor Education Initiative to include concepts that will be taught by K-12 classroom teachers.

- Support the alignment of outdoor education and conservation curriculum and instruction across STEM content areas to the Arkansas Academic Standards.
- Assist teachers in effectively implementing and adapting supplemental, high-quality outdoor education instructional materials aligned to science standards to ensure rigor, coherence, and accessibility for all learners.
- **Professional Development**
 - Design and facilitate collaborative training sessions on effective outdoor education instructional strategies, science content knowledge, and assessment practices.
 - Support teachers in implementing the Arkansas Outdoor Education core competencies, Natural State outdoor experiences, recreation/conservation projects, and teacher leadership best practices.
 - Promote the use of evidence-based practices and innovative teaching methods.
- **Assessment and Data Use**
 - Provide support in using components of ATLAS assessment to include classroom tools aligned to the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards.
 - Guide the development and use of formative and summative assessments to monitor student progress.
 - Support teachers in using data to adjust instruction and set student outdoor education learning goals.
- **Collaboration and Leadership**
 - Serve as a liaison between DESE, DCTE, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission education staff to ensure consistency, implementation, and growth of the Arkansas Outdoor Education Initiative.
 - Maintain up-to-date knowledge of research, instructional trends, and policy changes in multiple Arkansas Department of Education offices.
 - Other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Official duty station will be at the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in Little Rock. This position reports to the DESE State STEM Integration Coordinator.

Minimum Qualifications and Skills:

- Bachelor's degree in Education or a directly related field.
- A minimum of five (5) years of teaching experience in K–12 science and/or informal outdoor education settings, with demonstrated instructional expertise in at least one of the following content areas: Life Science, Environmental Science, and/or Earth Science.

- Proven ability to identify the critical features of high quality instructional materials for science and the use of these materials in K-12 classrooms.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills with the ability to lead professional development and collaborate effectively with educators, administrators, and stakeholders.
- Skilled in building professional partnerships between schools and post secondary education institutions, outdoor recreation/conservation businesses, and informal (out-of-school) education organizations.
- Organized, detail-oriented, and capable of managing multiple tasks in dynamic, school-based and outdoor environments.
- Proficient in the use of technology and digital tools to support instruction, data analysis, and virtual collaboration

Certificates:

- Must possess a valid Arkansas driver's license
- Must have a valid Arkansas Educator's license in 7-12 Science

Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Integrated Science Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Leadership, or a related field
- Leadership, experience, and/or education in outdoor recreation and conservation in the Natural State
- Experience providing instructional coaching or serving as a curriculum specialist across one or more science/STEM areas
- Knowledge and application of the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards

Start Date with number of days or months to work: To be determined upon hiring.
260 Days.

Location: Little Rock, AR; Arkansas Department of Education

Send a resume, letter of interest, and contact information for references to:

Michele Snyder; DESE State STEM Integration Coordinator

Michele.Snyder@ade.arkansas.gov

501-682-7942

Closing Date: