

The ICG team is deeply committed to the mission, vision, and values of our nonprofit organization. Please become familiar with ICG's mission, vision, and values- they drive everything we do!

Youth Program Educator

About Ithaca Children's Garden

The mission of Ithaca Children's Garden is to connect children to nature to create a more beautiful, resilient, and just world. Our vision is that every child has the basic human right to play, learn, grow outdoors, and develop a life-long relationship with the living world. Ithaca Children's Garden is committed to providing inclusive programming where all children feel welcomed and a sense of belonging.

Position Summary

The Youth Program Educator provides on the ground leadership for nature-based, child-led educational programming at Ithaca Children's Garden. Garden-infused programs include After School @ ICG, Summer Camp, and School Break Camps. This position reports to the Education Director (Sept-June) and Camp Director (July-August), and works closely with the education team and full ICG staff. The successful candidate will support the quality, impact, and growth of ICG's youth programs and champion ICG's mission and vision.

The Youth Program Educator is a year round position. Compensation for this position starts at \$19.00/hr based on 25 hours per week September-June from, and 40 hours per week July-August. School-year hours are 1-6pm, with some possible morning hours. Summer hours are 9am-5pm. Benefits include paid time off, health care plan, retirement account and other limited benefits. Candidates with diverse backgrounds and identities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Start date: Wed, Aug 23, 2023.

Job Functions & Responsibilities

- Lead nature-based, child-led educational programs for school-age children at Ithaca Children's Garden including After School @ ICG, summer camp, field trips and school break camps
- Create and maintain a welcoming and respectful atmosphere that ensures physical and emotional safety. Work collaboratively to provide a healthy and positive experience for youth
- Supervise children ages 3-14, lead activities and explorations, and support child-led free play with an understanding of developmental needs

- Use Brightwheel app and other means to communicate with families, assist with check in/out, address parent questions, and share program highlights
- Manage communication and support of participant health concerns (allergies, diets) and support needs.
- Share program highlights through photos and stories for use in ICG communications
- Support all aspects of site and supplies preparation, clean-up, organization and maintenance
- Ensure policies and procedures are followed; actively participate in improving policies and procedures
- Contribute to and participate in ICG's three weekend Community Events (Scarecrow Jubilee, Festival of Fire & Ice, Mud Day)
- Participate in weekly staff meetings and education team meetings
- Champion and support child-led outdoor play, garden-based learning and nature-based discovery
- Perform other duties consistent with the position to advance the mission of ICG, as assigned.

Supervises

- Summer camp playworkers/mentors (Seasonal)
- Volunteer/s (Sometimes)

Experience and Skills

The Youth Program Educator will be a highly motivated self-starter with a successful history of related work in outdoor youth programming, bonus point for also having any combination of these qualities and attributes:

- Culture-and mission-driven - passionate about ICG and supporting opportunities for all children to connect with nature.
- Capacity to plan, organize, deliver and evaluate nature-based education programs
- Love of the natural world and experience enjoying it in all weather!
- Youth programming experience. Youth outdoor educational experience preferred, or a combination of experience outdoors and youth education.
- Effective collaborator and team player, able to give and receive feedback
- Familiarity with working with diverse populations– ages, cultures, abilities
- Ability to empathize with children, parents, and colleagues
- Confidence in managing conflict situations and group dynamics
- Exceptional communication, written and verbal skills including strong listening skills
- The ability to work both independently and collaboratively with a diverse group of staff members, volunteers and community partners
- The capacity to manage multiple responsibilities within a program day

- Demonstrated commitment to equity and inclusion, and to supporting ICG in its goal to be an inclusive, multicultural, and anti-racist organization, authentically welcoming to all.

Requirements

- At least 21 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field OR 3 years experience in working with young people
- Pass criminal background checks
- Ability to work outdoors in all seasons and weather conditions

To Apply

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis through Aug 2. Please email your resume and cover letter to richard@ithacachildrensgarden.org with "Youth Program Educator" in the subject line. Cover letters can be addressed to Richard Lansdowne, Operations Manager.

In your cover letter, please briefly describe any relevant experience you have, and your interest in working with Ithaca Children's Garden, including experience and commitment related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

If you require any assistance or accommodations to submit your application, please contact us as soon as possible so that we may assist you.

Ithaca Children's Garden respects, values and embraces the characteristics and attributes that make each individual unique. We strive to provide an environment that attracts, retains and celebrates people from the rich cultures and walks of life within the communities we serve. ICG is an equal opportunity employer.

What to expect once you apply*

Our team is ICG's greatest asset; we want to find the candidate who is the best fit for organizational goals and is a complement to our existing team. Once we receive your cover letter and resume, they will be filed for the search committee to review. You will be thanked for your application. If you are selected for an interview, you will be notified, an interview will be scheduled, and the interview questions will be shared with you ahead of time. The first interview will be conducted, either in person or remotely, by 2 ICG Staff members who will work closely with the Youth Program Educator. There will be a second round of interviews, in person, for the top few candidates. Once there is a recommendation for hiring, references will be checked. Employment will be contingent upon clearance of a background check. Applicants who are not selected for an interview, or were not advanced to second interviews, will be notified once the position is filled.

We appreciate when candidates become familiar with ICG's mission, vision, values, programs, and ethos. Learn more at <https://www.ithacachildrengarden.org/about-icg/#meet-icg>.