



## **Employment Opportunity Yosemite Director of Education**

### **About NatureBridge**

Founded in 1971 and based in San Francisco, NatureBridge is the largest residential environmental education partner of the National Park Service. Its mission is to inspire personal connections to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. NatureBridge currently operates in six national parks: Yosemite National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Olympic National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Channel Islands National Park, and Prince William Forest Park. Each year, NatureBridge serves more than 30,000 participants through residential field science, youth leadership, and teacher training programs. In Yosemite National Park, 300 school groups are served, representing 13,000 participants annually. NatureBridge is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. See [naturebridge.org](http://naturebridge.org) for more information.

### **SUMMARY**

The Director of Education is responsible for leading, managing and overseeing the educational integrity of all NatureBridge programs in Yosemite. With science as the lens through which students become responsible stewards of the natural world, the Director of Education is the primary champion for science at the Yosemite campus. The Education Director serves as the liaison between Yosemite and the NatureBridge Education Working Group, and works to ensure a consistent and rigorous approach to all education programs and national education initiatives. The Director collaborates with the National Park Service to ensure that NatureBridge programs are in keeping with NPS strategic vision for youth education and resource management. The Director of Education leads a team of program managers, field science specialist, mentor teachers, and over 30 educators across several key programs: Field Science, WildLink, Field Research Course, and the Armstrong Scholars Program. The Director of Education reports to the Yosemite Director and serves on the Yosemite Leadership Team, collaborating with the Director of Operations, Director of Outreach and Enrollment, and the Director of Facilities and Food Service to ensure seamless program delivery.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Leadership and Supervision 40%**

- Directly supervise the Education Manager, Wilderness Programs Manager, Field Science Specialist, and two Mentor Teachers
- Collaborate with education team to develop new curriculum, teaching resources, and staff development in response to changing trends in environmental and science education nationwide
- Oversee all hiring, training, and evaluation of the Yosemite Education Team
- Lead the Yosemite Education Team in the creation and implementation of PPSR (Public Participation in Scientific Research) projects so that at least 60% of all Yosemite students participate by 2015
- Promote innovative ways to incorporate into field science programs the *8 Practices of Science* by end of calendar year 2016, including: 1. Asking Questions, 2. Developing and using models, 3. Planning

and carrying out investigations, 4. Analyzing and interpreting data, 5. Using mathematics and computational thinking, 6. Constructing explanations, 7. Engaging in argument from evidence, 8. Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

- Identify and develop scientific initiatives—including the use of cutting-edge technology—to expand and deepen the Yosemite program’s educational potential
- Create, manage, and monitor annual program budgets and participate in budget development as a member of the Yosemite Leadership Team
- Lead the creation of the Teacher Engagement Program in Yosemite in concert with the NatureBridge teacher engagement team.
- Participate in and share responsibilities of the Yosemite Leadership Team

### **NatureBridge-wide Collaboration 25%**

- Work with the NatureBridge Education Working Group and other campus Education Directors to create, implement, and evaluate organization-wide educational goals, both short and long term that keep NatureBridge at the leading and growing edge of environmental education
- Champion the NatureBridge-wide science initiative in Yosemite, which seeks to increase science literacy and produce a capable citizenry comprised of diverse thinkers, teachers, leaders, and stewards
- Support the NatureBridge initiative to design and develop a cross-campus Teacher and Community Engagement Platform; lead this new effort at Yosemite
- Serve as the point person for National endeavors as they relate to Yosemite education goals and staff, including Risk Management, Diversity, etc.
- Oversee the development and revision of education content on the Yosemite portion of NatureBridge website
- Support the development of NatureBridge’s online resources for educators, including the Digital Habitat, Yosemite Educator Site, etc.
- Actively support the development of new online data collection, sharing, and analysis initiatives across NatureBridge

### **Partnerships 15%**

- Work in partnership with the education/interpretation leaders from both NPS and park partner organizations in Yosemite National Park to leverage and strengthen the NatureBridge/NPS partnership
- Represent NatureBridge and take an active leadership role among select local and regional committees, conferences and professional associations related to environmental education, diversity and/or science education
- Lead the ongoing development and strengthening of partnerships with schools and community organizations and seek opportunities to develop new ones

### **Curriculum and Evaluation 7.5%**

- Serve as a resident expert in theory, research, and practice of environmental education, including topics such as inquiry-based learning, diversity and equity, Next Generation Science Standards, and what it takes to create responsible environmental behavior
- Ensure that Yosemite campus program design and implementation are explicitly aligned to NatureBridge’s Core Education Framework and strategic priorities (including open scientific inquiry, PPSR, climate change, cutting edge technology), as well as to state and federal content standards, including the new Next Generation Science Standards

- Monitor the quality of Yosemite’s campus education formally and informally through field observation, staff meeting attendance, and staff dialogue in order to represent education outcomes and needs to leadership teams
- Support the design and lead the Yosemite specific implementation of all education, campus-based evaluation activities, including goal setting, instrument development, and data collection, analysis, and sharing to internal and external audiences

**Professional Development 7.5%**

- Encourage and support ongoing professional development for managers, coordinators, and educators across the Yosemite campus’s education programs
- Support the ongoing refinement of the education department’s recruiting, hiring, retention, and staff assessment activities

**Development 5%**

- Support the Yosemite Director in fulfilling NatureBridge’s development functions, including assisting in the cultivation of potential donors and partners, planning and implementing funded projects, coordinating the gathering of information for grant reporting, and assisting the stewardship of donor relationships
- Co-develop and oversee/manage multiple grant budgets
- Represent the Yosemite education department at Board meetings and development events

**EXPERIENCE, COMPETENCIES AND EDUCATION**

The ideal candidate can demonstrate the following

- Master’s Degree (M.A.) or equivalent, teaching credential a plus
- Four to ten years of experience in nonprofit management or school administration, or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Experience leading or directing scientific initiatives, including original research
- Demonstrated leadership vision and follow-through
- Extensive experience teaching youth, adults, and professional educators
- Significant experience supervising multiple teams
- Proven communication and coaching/mentoring skills
- Experience developing innovative programs, trainings, and curricula
- Exemplary budget and project management skills
- Experience in crisis management and communications preferred
- Exceptional writing, editing, and public speaking skills
- Significant experience designing, implementing, analyzing, and sharing findings from program evaluations
- Sophisticated understanding of and demonstrated commitment to issues of diversity and equity in education
- Strong pedagogical foundations in experiential and inquiry-based learning, multiple intelligence theory, and thematic teaching
- Working knowledge of human and natural history of Yosemite and/or the Sierra Nevada, wilderness character, NPS mission
- Current Wilderness First Aid and CPR certifications
- Willingness to travel and work occasional evenings and weekends

**This is a full-time exempt position. Salary is commensurate with experience.** NatureBridge provides a comprehensive compensation package, including competitive salary, medical and dental benefits, and generous vacation. This position is based in the community of El Portal, just outside of Yosemite National Park. Housing for this position is not included, however rental properties are available in the communities of Mariposa and Midpines, with limited rentals in El Portal. NatureBridge values diversity, equity, and inclusion. We strive to diversify our workforce and seek applications from individuals of all backgrounds, abilities, cultures, orientations, identities, and communities.

### **How to Apply**

Qualified candidates should email their resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to:

[yosemiteeducationdirector@naturebridge.org](mailto:yosemiteeducationdirector@naturebridge.org)

Please no staffing agency calls, faxes, or phone calls.

Review of applications will begin immediately. Recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce is a high priority at NatureBridge. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and resume. Position is open until filled.