



Outdoor Classroom Apprenticeship

Fall Apprenticeship, August 11, 2010 – October 29, 2010

Becomes:

Outdoor Classroom Instructor, March 28 – October 31, 2011

Chewonki Mission

The Chewonki Foundation is dedicated to helping people grow individually and in community with others by providing educational experiences that foster an understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the natural world and that emphasize the power of focused, collective effort.

Outdoor Classroom Program Description

Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom program is a unique model in which our instructor and apprentices live with their students and school chaperone in small camping groups at shore-side campsites on Chewonki Neck. Adults and students sleep in tents, cook over open fires, and learn camping skills. Respect and responsibility for oneself, others and our natural environment are stressed within these small group communities. Groups participate in two lessons each day that focus on either ecology, sustainability, outdoor living or teambuilding. Examples of lessons include Pond Study, Sustainable Food and Farm, Renewable Energy, Low Ropes Group Challenge Course, Map and Compass, Canoeing and more. Night activities include group games, night walks, natural history roves, or live animal presentations. These programs take place on Chewonki's 400-acre peninsula, which is surrounded by tidal estuaries. Our land is mostly wooded, but also contains fields, two fresh water ponds, a working organic farm, an extensive salt marsh, a hiking trail system and ten established campsites with tent platforms. In addition to the camping programs, we also offer day programs (on- and off-site), teacher workshops, and occasional wilderness trips. Other programs exist at Chewonki side by side with the Outdoor Classroom. Instructors live on campus, and we all work together to make the community a successful one.

Apprenticeship Description

Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom Apprenticeship is a support position designed as a stepping stone to our 3-season Instructor position. The Apprenticeship runs from mid-August through the end of October each year. Apprentices also sign-on to be full instructors/trip leaders for the following spring-summer-fall seasons. Apprentices begin by serving as a second leader on school programs and trips throughout the fall season. Much of the season involves shadowing our veteran instructors and learning the job through self-guided learning. Working closely with many different instructors before working on one's own provides a chance to observe a variety of leadership styles and teaching methods. We start with a brief training in which apprentices learn a few ecology, sustainability and teambuilding lessons and activities that they will be called upon to lead. Hopefully, by the end of the fall season, apprentices will have gained the skills to lead programs independently. Working for Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom is an extremely demanding, yet rewarding experience. Staff are on-duty 24 hours a day for 3-5 day residential programs each week, camping out with a group of 10-12 students. It is an excellent teacher training opportunity regardless of experience or background. Although the programs are short (usually 3-5 days), the growth that is realized by each participant is often quite amazing. To be part of that growth is a tremendous responsibility and a wonderful opportunity. When apprentices return in the spring as full instructors they will join our other new instructors in four weeks of more formal, in-depth training with the advantage of familiarity with our school program. When not on program, apprentices are

expected to participate in daily chores and cleaning and general Chewonki maintenance work. Because of the nature of our programs, we look for individuals who are sensitive and caring and who enjoy teaching and working with children. A strong willingness and an ability to work very hard is a necessity.

Qualifications

A BS or BA. Degree in education, natural sciences, outdoor recreation, or related field preferred.** Experience working with children required. Experience teaching environmental topics and leading low ropes courses a plus. We are looking for individuals with strong leadership ability, a dynamic personality and a passion for living and working with children in the out-of-doors. Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and lifeguarding certification a plus – both are required prior to full instructor training in March. A WFR course is held at Chewonki each January and lifeguard training is available each March.

Stipend and Benefits

Apprentices receive a stipend of \$100/week, plus room and board. Instructors are paid a salary of \$260/week, increasing to \$312/week for the 10 weeks of summer camp. Health benefits are available for \$35/month. We also provide staff “pro deals” for discounts on outdoor gear.

To Apply

Please submit your resume, cover letter and references along with the **OC Application Form**, posted on the employment opportunities page. Please include a list of your strengths and three reasons you are interested in this position.

Emma Carlson
Assistant Director, Chewonki Outdoor Classroom
485 Chewonki Neck Road
Wiscasset, Maine 04578
207-882-7323 ext. 153
ecarlson@chewonki.org
www.chewonki.org

Chewonki’s Outdoor Classroom. 485 Chewonki Neck Road. Wiscasset, Maine 04578. 207-882-7323 ext. 164