



WHO WE ARE:

Based in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, Appalachian Forest School is an outdoor preschool for 3 - 5 year olds. Through exploration and play, our students develop skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Our organization is unique in that each forest school class visits a different location in the national forest every day. At AFS, we believe in wild, messy, uninterrupted outdoor play.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Appalachian Forest School is looking for creative and energetic individuals who possess prudent judgment and decision making skills, have previous experience working with children, and demonstrate organizational skills to maintain student forms and perform other daily duties. Successful applicants are flexible, motivated individuals that have an affinity for fun, people, and spending a significant amount of time outside in any weather!

Each AFS class consists of a Lead Instructor, an Assistant Instructor, and 10 students. There are three terms in a calendar year - a school year program consisting of fall and spring semesters, and a summer program called the Little Explorers Club. Anticipated schedule is 25-30 hours/week, Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. AFS has two classes based in Harrisonburg and one class based in Staunton. In an effort to provide consistency for our students, instructors are asked to serve in their role for at least one year.

Within the structure of established itineraries and program descriptions, AFS Instructors are given the freedom and flexibility to shape, plan, and implement daily activities – a key contributor to the success and vibrancy of AFS. Potential instructors must have a clear criminal background check, as well as a safe driving check, and be available for pre-season staff training on May 31st & June 1st.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Acting in accordance with all written policies in the AFS Handbook
- Assisting with drop off/pick up
- Cultivating relationships with AFS parents through consistent communication
- Encouraging exploration, imagination, creativity, independence, resilience, and grit
- Mitigating risk

- Leveraging educational opportunities
- Practicing and teaching Leave No Trace principles
- Assisting students with clothing/toileting
- Co-facilitating snack/lunch time
- Brainstorming ways to improve the program and further the mission of AFS
- Participating in AFS trainings, professional development, and monthly AFS Team meetings
- Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Insanely fun, creative, and willing to be an active and engaging role-model
- Organized, dependable, and professional
- Knowledge and enthusiasm for outdoor/experiential education
- Significant prior experience working with youth
- Ability to be present and cell phone free while at work
- Certified or willingness to be certified in Wilderness First Aid & CPR
- Clear criminal and driving background check

WE OFFER:

- Rewarding experiences working with kids
- Competitive wages
- 4 day work week
- Access to Wilderness First Aid/Wilderness First Responder training
- Paid staff trainings
- Pro deals on outdoor gear and apparel
- Established and experienced staff members
- 9 weeks off throughout the year (3 weeks each in August, December, and May)
- Close-knit and collaborative work environment