



Forest Friends Forest Preschool/Kindergarten Teacher Position Description (2024-2025 school year)

TITLE: Forest Friends Preschool Teacher/Kindergarten Teacher
REPORTS TO: Wright-Locke Farm Director of Education
STATUS: Part Time (10-25 hours) with option to increase to Full-Time with additional hours with Youth Programming.
SALARY RANGE: Competitive and commensurate with experience
START DATE: August 2024-June 2025

Wright-Locke Farm Mission:

The Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy (WLFC) seeks to build broad community and model sustainable practices through active learning, organic agriculture, land stewardship, and an appreciation of our historic New England farm. We grow certified organic vegetables, fruits and flowers for local consumption, offer farm-based educational experiences for people of all ages through structured programs and informal learning, and open our doors for public and private events, providing a venue for recreation, leisure and gathering.

Forest Friends Mission:

Through our nature-immersive, play-based program, the Forest Friends program at Wright-Locke Farm fosters a love of exploratory learning, educates the whole child, and cultivates a genuine connection to the natural world. In these ways, we aim to create lifelong learners, engaged and empathetic citizens, and compassionate environmental stewards. Learn more at wlfarm.org/forest-friends.

Position Overview:

Forest Friends, a licensed preschool, is seeking an experienced early childhood, outdoor educator who will work in both the Forest Friends preschool on Fridays and work with our pilot Forest Kindergarten on other days of the week (we have some flexibility on hours). The Forest Friends Friday preschool consists of 4-5 year olds and the Forest Kindergarten will have 5-6 year olds. This role involves working with a Co-Teacher in both roles. Our ideal candidate has a genuine love for young children, a deep, personal connection to nature, a commitment to high quality care and learning. This person will have the ability to effectively run the daily operations

of the Forest Friends program while being a creative and inspirational mentor to the students and other staff/interns. The Kindergarten will consist of 6-8 children and will adhere to Massachusetts State kindergarten standards while embracing the nature-immersive, play based philosophy of the Forest Friends Preschool. **This candidate must be willing and able to spend extended time outdoors, in all weather, with their students.** We are seeking a highly relational and visionary educator who shares the values of WLFC and desires to be an integral part of the mission of both Forest Friends and the farm.

- Alongside the Co-Teacher, teach the 4-hour Forest Friends Preschool program on Friday mornings during the school year (8:30 am - 12:30 pm).
- Alongside the lead Kindergarten teacher, teach the 4-hour Forest Kindergarten program during available hours Monday-Thursday mornings during the school year (schedule to be agreed upon employment).
- Work collaboratively with Co-Teacher in preparation and planning as needed
- Maintain, along with other Forest Friends staff, a safe and successful, thriving, nature-based preschool that aligns with the WLFC mission and goals
- Assist with the management of daily operations of the preschool and kindergarten.
- Attend weekly staff meetings
- Create and maintain a healthy, safe, and positive environment for children
- Communicate with parents about their child's development and daily experiences, including conducting parent/teacher conferences at least twice a year
- Foster an inclusive, collaborative, and supportive community with families, Forest Friends staff, and WLFC staff
- Assist with development and implementation of daily practices and routines, as well as seasonal, place-based, emergent curriculum, that promotes early childhood development and deep nature connection
- Observe and document children's progress in the areas of social, emotional, physical, creative, and cognitive skills
- Assist with the management of any interns and volunteer
- Assist the Co-Teacher in ensuring adherence to any policies and regulations to maintain good standing with the town and the state.
- Help plan and attend 2-4 family short events during the school year

Desired Skills and Abilities:

- Experienced educator in a preschool/kindergarten/grade 1 setting
- Passionate about, and effective at, connecting with young children
- Strong communication skills with parents, staff and children
- Working knowledge of nature, science, and New England ecology
- Experienced in outdoor skills and activities, with an ability to be outside in all weather
- Ability and desire to help create excellent place-based, child-centered, emergent curriculum
- Good organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks and roles patiently and professionally, and adapt to changing situations
- Proficient with Google Drive Suite and/or MS Office Suite (Word, Excel)

Education/Experience:

- Experience working with young children and families in a preschool setting
- Experience spending extended time in the outdoors in varying weather conditions
- Preschool 1 or Lead Teacher certified (or willingness to work towards certification) through Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- CPR/First Aid certified or willingness to obtain
- Willingness to work with Director on maintaining professional MA EEC requirements
- Suitable Background Check (BRC) through Commonwealth of MA

Physical Demands: This position requires the ability to work outside in various weather conditions. The employee is frequently required to walk or hike on steep or uneven terrain, stand and sit for extended periods of time. This employee will occasionally climb or balance; and stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 30 lbs. and may occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 lbs.

Anti-Discrimination Statement: Wright-Locke Farm is an equal opportunity organization and, as such, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, age, national origin (ancestry), physical or mental ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

How to apply: Position open until filled (ideally by June 1, 2022). Please send a resume, cover letter, statement of education philosophy, and 3 references to Sarah Doyle, Director of Education and Forest Friends to sdoyle@wlfarm.org.