

TITLE: Outdoor Education Instructor
SALARY: Non-profit range, depends on experience
STATUS: Full time, exempt
DURATION: May–October
ORGANIZATION: Mono Lake Committee
LOCATION: Lee Vining, California
SUPERVISED BY: Education Director



Since 1995, the Mono Lake Committee has operated a successful outdoor education program connecting youth from all over the City of Los Angeles to the northern terminus of their city's aqueduct and watershed 335 miles distant. The program is called the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) program and it combines watershed education, experiential education, muscle-powered recreation, and stewardship projects to build understanding and appreciation for Mono Lake and the Los Angeles watershed. The program uses the historic Cain Ranch and the former aqueduct foreman's house, now the site for the Mono Basin Outdoor Education Center. The site is leased on a long-term basis from the City of Los Angeles.

The surrounding Eastern Sierra region is the outdoor classroom. Mono Lake and its surrounding 700 square miles of Sierra Nevada and Western Great Basin provide endless opportunities for learning, rewarding experiences, and stewardship activities. The program operates in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, and under a priority special-use permit with the Inyo National Forest.

Groups participating in the OEC program at Mono Lake include Los Angeles schools and community groups and regional school groups from elementary school to college level. Approximately 18 groups participate from late May through October. Groups comprise all ages, but are often middle school to high school ages.

The Outdoor Education Instructor works in the field with the Outdoor Experiences Program Manager. The Outdoor Education Instructor assists with education program coordination and leadership for group sizes between 10 and 25 participants.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Lead hikes, education programs, team-building activities, and canoe trips on Mono Lake. Hikes may include challenging trails and terrain around Mono Lake or in the high country of the surrounding Mono/Yosemite region.
- Assist in guiding and supervising (along with adult chaperones provided by the individual groups) during the five-day program. This may include some overnight camping on-site with groups.
- Assist with program site set-up, clean up, kitchen help, and some superficial site maintenance. The program is run at the Outdoor Education Center, a modest residence with basic amenities located five miles south of the Mono Lake Committee's headquarters, which are in Lee Vining, California.
- Other responsibilities include interpretive program development and preparation and leading environmental education programs for school groups participating outside the OEC program.
- Assisting with various projects at the Mono Lake Committee Office and Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining when there are group cancellations or gaps in the program schedule.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong leadership and communication skills, and the desire to teach natural history and environmental water issues to a young, ethnically, and culturally diverse youth.
- Desire to understand environmental problems from a solution-oriented perspective.
- Experience working with and/or teaching young people in an outdoor setting.
- A car is required. Mileage will be reimbursed for occasional, work-related travel.
- Ability to occasionally lift heavy loads up to 40 pounds.
- Wilderness First Responder certification is required.
- Final hiring is contingent on Live Scan fingerprint background check and driving record check.
- Ability to speak Spanish is a plus, and canoe-paddling experience is helpful.

The OEC program serves youth from different parts of Los Angeles, of varying ages, ethnic backgrounds, education levels, and physical fitness. Many have never experienced a wild place beyond the city, and some groups have little or no science background. The OEC program adapts to meet the needs of these youth. Staff on duty share meals, activities, housing/camping, and clean-up. There is a community atmosphere within this program that requires a myriad of staff roles—instructor, naturalist, janitor, trip leader, mentor, friend, counselor, supervisor, first-aid provider, diplomat, comedian, etc.

BENEFITS:

- Employee discount on merchandise in the Information Center & Bookstore.
- Mileage is paid for all job-related travel (this does not include travel to and from the OEC site).
- Shared housing may be available in Lee Vining.
- Working at Mono Lake!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Mono Lake Committee is a 16,000 member non-profit citizens' group dedicated to the permanent protection and restoration of the Mono Basin ecosystem; educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use; and promoting cooperative solutions that meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

The local area is comprised of sagebrush steppe, piñon-juniper, and Jeffrey pine forest plant communities, 46,000 acres of Mono Lake, numerous 12,000+ foot Sierra peaks, and plug-dome volcanoes. The Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore is in the town of Lee Vining (pop. 400, elev. 6,780'), on the eastern edge of Yosemite National Park near Mono Lake. The town is located adjacent to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, and the Ansel Adams and Hoover Wilderness areas. Lee Vining is situated along Highway 395, 27 miles north of Mammoth Lakes, California and 110 miles south of Carson City, Nevada.

The Outdoor Education Instructor position is full-time, exempt, and seasonal, from May through mid-November. Housing is available through the Committee at \$250/month (sorry, no pets). Staff receive a discount on merchandise from the Information Center & Bookstore, and get the great benefit of working for a successful environmental non-profit.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2018. To apply, send a cover letter and resume via email to Bartshé Miller, Education Director (bartshe@monolake.org). Applications will be accepted until this position is filled (two total). For more information contact Bartshe Miller at (760) 647-6595 x121 or visit monolake.org/mlc/jobs.