

TITLE: 2020 Outdoor Education Instructor
PAY: \$14.00/hour
STATUS: Non-exempt, full time
DURATION: May–October
ORGANIZATION: Mono Lake Committee
LOCATION: Lee Vining, California
SUPERVISED BY: Outdoor Education Center Manager



Description:

The Mono Lake Committee is a 16,000 member non-profit citizens' group dedicated to the 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.

Since 1995, the Mono Lake Committee has operated the Outdoor Education Center (OEC) program, which connects youth from Los Angeles to the Mono Basin—the northernmost extent of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and a source of Los Angeles' water. The OEC program combines watershed education, experiential education, muscle-powered recreation, and stewardship projects to build understanding and appreciation for Mono Lake and its connection to the Los Angeles watershed.

As an Outdoor Education Instructor, you will work in the field about 75% of the time with another instructor and the Outdoor Education Center Manager, assisting with education program coordination and leadership for groups ranging in size between 10 and 20 participants.

Groups participating in the OEC program include Los Angeles school and community groups with participants from teenagers to adults. Approximately 25 groups participate from May through October and are comprised of people 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 all participants. There is a community atmosphere within this program that requires staff to serve in a myriad of roles—instructor, naturalist, janitor, trip leader, mentor, friend, counselor, supervisor, first-aid provider, diplomat, comedian, etc.

Outdoor Education Instructors bring fresh energy, perspective and diverse knowledge to the Mono Lake Committee and to the OEC program. Each year we provide seasonal staff with comprehensive training to develop a thorough understanding of the Mono Basin and the Mono Lake Committee in order to be able to fulfill their job duties.

The Mono Lake Committee values a diverse, inclusive, and equitable workplace where all employees and volunteers feel respected and appreciated. We are committed to a nondiscriminatory approach and provide equal opportunity for employment and advancement in all of our departments.

In this role you will:

- 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 each five-day program.
- 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 is 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 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 personal vehicle, valid driver's license, and good driving record are required (contact us with any questions).
- Wilderness First Responder certification is required. Reimbursement for certification may be available; contact us for more information.
- Must pass a background check to confirm you do not have any criminal violations relevant to working with youth.
- Ability to speak Spanish is a plus, and canoe-paddling experience is helpful.

Benefits:

- Employee discount on merchandise in the Information Center & Bookstore.
- Paid time off for observed holidays that occur during time of employment.
- Comprehensive training on Mono Basin ecology, water policy, interpretation, and more.
- Mileage is paid for all job-related travel from place of work in personal vehicle.
- Affordable shared housing may be available in Lee Vining.
- Working at Mono Lake!

Additional information:

The OEC program is run out of a single-family house called Cain Ranch, located five miles south of Lee Vining. This is where students stay, cook, and relax during downtime. The house is also stocked with sleeping bags, water bottles, hiking boots, and more for the students to use.

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.

The Mono Basin is comprised of 46,000 acres of Mono Lake, numerous 12,000+ foot Sierra peaks, sagebrush steppe, pinyon-juniper, and Jeffrey pine forest plant communities, 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 above 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, 30 miles north of Mammoth Lakes, California and 110 miles south of Carson City, Nevada.

The Outdoor Education Instructor position is full-time and seasonal (temporary), from May through the end of October. This job requires extremely flexible people who are willing to work early mornings and later into the night, with changing schedules week-to-week, depending on the demands of the program. Overtime may be required, typically not more than two hours per week. Shared housing may be available through the Committee at \$275/month (sorry, no pets).

Application process:

If you meet more than 75% of the qualifications of this description, we support your application.

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2020. To apply, send a cover letter and resume via email to Rose Nelson, Education Director (rose@monolake.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

For more information or clarification on the job description, contact Rose Nelson at (760) 647-6386 x113 or visit monolake.org/mlc/jobs.