



Dear Apprenticeship Candidate,

Thanks for your interest in becoming a part of the team at the WNC Nature Center, a part of the City of Asheville's Community and Economic Development Department. With over 40 acres of Southern Appalachian habitat, the WNC Nature Center is a prime attraction in the Asheville area for families, residents, and visitors. The Nature Center is proud to be accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. We welcome over 170,000 visitors annually and provide care for over 60 species of wild and domestic animals as we work towards our mission of connecting people with the animals and plants of the Southern Appalachian Mountain region.

The WNC Nature Center is searching for a seasonal apprentice to assist with our education department. Our apprentice positions are volunteer non-paid positions, but after serving a minimum of 240 hours, apprentices will be eligible to receive a \$2000 stipend (any applicable taxes will apply to this payment) from the Friends of the WNC Nature Center; \$2000 is the maximum stipend one can receive. Apprenticeships may be eligible for school credit, pending your school's approval. The Nature Center can only host a limited number of apprentices so the selection process is competitive.

If you are seeking paid employment, all hiring for full-time or paid positions with the Nature Center or Asheville Parks and Recreation are posted on the City's website at [www.ashevollenc.gov](http://www.ashevollenc.gov).

Both the Nature Center and the Friends of the Nature Center are always looking for volunteers. If you're not able to commit to a full apprenticeship (20-40 hours per week) or if you are not offered a formal apprenticeship, please consider volunteering. To find out more about volunteering, visit our website: [www.wildwnc.org/volunteer](http://www.wildwnc.org/volunteer).

For general information regarding apprenticeship possibilities at the WNC Nature Center, please see the description below. See our website for current apprenticeship openings and applications.





# Environmental Education Apprenticeship

**Dates:** First week of June - mid-August

**Time:** 9:00-4:30, 20-40 hours per week, must complete at least 240 hours

**Location:** WNC Nature Center  
75 Gashes Creek Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28805

This position will assist the Teen Program Coordinator in leading the Young Naturalist program. The Young Naturalist Program is a summer volunteer program for people ages 13-17 who lead interpretive stations around the Nature Center and participate in work days to further their social, communication, and customer service skills. This popular teen program is an integral part of the WNC Nature Center's mission by fostering connections between people and the animals and plants of the Southern Appalachian Mountain region by inspiring appreciation, nurturing understanding, and advancing conservation of the region's rich biodiversity.

The apprentice will perform duties such as leading teen meetings, leading work days with teens, teen mentorship, data management, creating spreadsheets, and basic maintenance of materials. Other duties may be assigned.

This position assists in the growth of the Young Naturalist program and a specific project will be determined by the skills/passion of the apprentice. Some examples of what a project might entail are developing new activities for the program, networking with local organizations to develop and plan additional offerings for the teens, creating artwork for additional education materials, developing a framework to reach more diverse and underserved populations, and/or any ideas that can further the growth of this program.

## **Qualifications:**

### **Required knowledge, skills and experience:**

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Show maturity, understand your workload capacity (can you do a good job in this apprenticeship while you also... attend school, work another job, etc.).
- Comfortable working indoors and outdoors in all weather conditions and on uneven terrain without direct supervision after completing training.
- Must enjoy speaking to the public and be willing to engage passing visitors.



- Able to interact tactfully and courteously with the general public and Nature Center staff and volunteers.
- Willing to work with groups of children, adults, and teenagers.
- Possess a positive attitude and communication skills.

Desired knowledge, skills, and experience:

- Knowledge of plants and animals native to the Southern Appalachians.
- Major in wildlife biology, conservation, natural sciences, environmental education, education or related fields.
- Experience working or volunteering in a nature center, natural history museum, school, or related setting.
- Public speaking, interpretation, or environmental education experience.
- Experience working with teens and the public.
- Proficiency in navigating Google Suite and Microsoft.
- Conversational proficiency in Spanish.
- CPR/First Aid Certification.

If you have questions or require more information about this position, contact Chrissy Cochran at [ccochedran@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:ccochedran@ashevillenc.gov) or 828-259-8084.

The City of Asheville values and respects a diverse community, workforce and ideas, and is committed to promoting an equitable, fair, and just working environment. Our organization seeks to create and provide access and opportunities to volunteers, residents and visitors to fulfill their potential through inclusive engagement practices. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for volunteer positions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.