



Program Coordinator - Ecology Center

City of Evanston

Contact Name: Human Resources

Contact E-mail: humanresources@cityofevanston.org

Contact Phone: 847-448-8204

Closing Date: 2026-02-13

Salary: \$39.47 to \$55.26 / hour

Description:

\$39.47 to \$55.26 / hour*

*Starting salary is dependent upon qualifications, but in most cases is no higher than the midpoint for range.

Scheduled Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NATURE OF WORK

Under the direction of the Conservation and Outdoor Division Manager, this position will be primarily responsible for the development, coordination, and implementation of comprehensive environmental/outdoor recreation programs for the citizens of Evanston. Programs could include, but are not limited to, summer camp, activities, seminars, field trips, special events and facility rentals. The Program Coordinator may act as the supervisor on duty in the absence of the Division Manager. The position is also responsible for supervising employees, contracted vendors, and volunteers.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Develops, implements, supervises, coordinates, and evaluates programs, special events, drop in programs, family activities and a variety of workshops and seminars related to environmental education and recreation. Classes are located at the Ecology Center as well as at the various sites throughout the City of Evanston.
- Recruits, interviews, and recommends part-time employees, seasonal employees, and contracted vendors for center programs.
- Trains, supervises, and evaluates employees and volunteer staff in the programs under his/her direction, including assigning specific tasks and works hours accordingly.
- Answers questions from 311, customer phone calls, emails, as well as in-person questions, comments, and concerns.
- Assists with conducting community outreach to local organizations, schools, and affiliate organizations.
- Ensures programs and services are well organized, meet their objective and are safe for all participants.

- Prepares a variety of written program material, reports, and correspondence, maintains files as required in addition to the preparation of financial records such as including budget recommendations, revenue and expense reports, and the preparation of invoices for payments.
- Consults with other Program Coordinators and the Division Manager regularly regarding center activities and programs.
- Manages volunteers for ecology program offerings and special events.
- Assists the Division Manager with developing, executing, implementing, and adhering to the annual program budget, and strategic and operational plan for the department/center.
- Works to develop collaborative partnerships with organizations in the public, non-profit organizations such as the Evanston Environmental Association, Citizen's Greener Evanston, Evanston Garden Clubs, etc.
- Collaborates with Community Services division staff in the development and continued improvements and modifications of all program offerings at the Ecology Center.
- Prepares and creates displays and exhibits.
- Enforces rules pertaining to the overall health and safety of the participants.
- Reports any unsafe conditions to the Division Manager or submits work order requests to the City's 311 system.
- Attends training(s) and conferences to enhance personal development and gain more knowledge.
- Attends department and other meetings as required.
- Purchases program supplies on an as needed basis and within budget.
- Ensures that all employees and volunteers under his/her direction are practicing excellent customer service, and that all policies and procedures are properly implemented.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF WORK:

- Must possess three (3) or more years of programming experience in nature education programming or parks and recreation programs; and must possess one (1) or more years of experience in a supervisory capacity. Bachelor's degree preferred from an accredited college or university in Recreation, Education, Leisure Studies, or a substantially similar area.
- Must possess a valid driver's license and a safe driving record.
- Must possess current First Aid/CPR certifications or have the ability to obtain them within the first six (6) months of hire.
- Certification as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) is preferred.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities in the following areas:

- Ability to deal positively and effectively with the public and other staff and individual agencies or persons.
- Strong customer service and teamwork orientation.
- Ability to deliver strong presentations and programs to different audiences and user groups.
- Considerable knowledge of and ability to use Internet search engines, word processing software, email, recreation registration software, and Windows operating systems.
- Ability to apply common sense understanding to carry out instructions provided in written, oral, or diagrammatic form; to deal with problems involving several concrete variables in or from standardized situations.
- Ability to prepare work assignments, research issues summaries, letters and memorandum and reports using prescribed format and conforming to all rules of punctuation, grammar, dictation, and style.

- Ability to give verbal direction to subordinates, communicate effectively with co-workers and supervisors.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS OF WORK:

Ability to exert up to 75 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 50 pounds frequently, and up to 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects.

Ability to work outdoors, occasionally, in a variety of weather conditions such as extreme cold, high winds, rain, snow, sleet, high temperatures and humidity.

Ability to perform heavy manual labor including, but not limited to, lifting heavy objects, climbing, sitting, or standing for long periods of time; bend, crawl, identify or distinguish colors, recognize depth of objects, focus on small or distant objects, talk, and hear.

SUPERVISION:

Performance is reviewed through observation, completion of projects, reports, and meetings. Guidance is provided through the City Code, departmental policies, City operating practices and procedures, and other resources as applicable to the specific project assigned. Work is evaluated annually with respect to programming initiatives, problem-solving ability, customer service, research, and analytical skill, written and verbal communication skills, and performance in accordance with this classification standard.

PUBLIC CONTACT:

The Program Coordinator has regular contact with the public, other departmental employees, and supervisors. The employee will respond to questions and feedback and provide general direction to the public; the employee has regular contact with other City employees in order to share information and complete work assignments and programming initiatives.

SELECTION METHOD:

Structured Oral Interview

TYPE OF ELIGIBILITY LIST:

N/A

LIFE OF ELIGIBILITY LIST:

Two (2) Years

To apply for this position, please apply online at www.cityofevanston.org on or before the closing date.

Chosen candidates will be required to provide proof of licenses, certifications, and education required for this position. Candidates will also be subject to qualifying pre-employment processes, including medical examination, drug/alcohol screen, employment verification, and criminal background check.

The City of Evanston is an equal opportunity employer and ensures against discrimination in employment on the basis of a person's race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, source of income, housing status, or gender identity. The City of Evanston is also committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Any person needing mobility or communications access assistance should contact Human Resources at 847-448-8204 (voice) or 847-866-5095 (TTY)