



Environmental Educator and Animal Care Coordinator

Irvine's **Environmental Educator & Animal Care Coordinator** is responsible for assisting with the care and maintenance of our extensive live animal collection (reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, mammals and birds of prey) and leading environmental education programs. This full-time position reports to Irvine's Deputy Director.

This position is comprised of two main components:

- Creating and leading **educational programs** for both school groups and the general public.
- Assisting with the duties of **animal care** for our collection of 50+ 'Animal Ambassadors'

Specific Areas of Responsibility:

Environmental Education:

- Teach natural history lessons and lead field trip activities for local school groups, including school field trips, Nature in the Classroom and Eco-Explorers Afterschool Program
- Create and prepare materials, lessons and manipulatives needed for programs
- Guide small-group hikes to explore Irvine's forests, wetlands, meadows and Native American site
- Run Summer Outreach programs for public libraries, camps, preschools, etc.
- Assist with running Summer Nature Camp sessions on animal caretaking and leading other summer camp sessions as needed. (Approximately 3-4 weeks throughout summer)

Animal Care:

- Assist Manager of Animal Care with daily feeding, cleaning, and care of Irvine's animal collection
- Provide enrichment activities to keep animals active, engaged, and healthy
- Help train new animals so that they can be handled for educational programs
- Oversee daily maintenance of Irvine's 3-season butterfly house; includes ordering plants and insects
- Train volunteers, interns, and staff in live animal handling; monitor animal usage
- Give occasional animal presentations to student groups and community organizations

Exhibits:

- Generate potential conceptual schemes for a major renovation to Irvine's Exhibit Hall
- Manage and maintain interpretive exhibits; order supplies as needed

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in biology, wildlife science, or related field
- At least two years of environmental education/teaching experience
- Extensive experience handling and caring for a wide variety of animals
- Strong knowledge of raptor husbandry, behavior and nutrition
- Desire to work with children as much as with animals
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; strong interpersonal skills; creativity; artistic sense

- Flexibility to work some holidays, special events and occasional weekends
- Team player; willingness to shift gears and help out with various education programs, when needed
- Ability to handle physical tasks such as lifting and carrying heavy objects, bending, standing and walking for extended periods of time

Salary: \$42,000 plus benefits

To apply: Please send your resume, cover letter and three references to HR@ExploreNature.org
Please note: Employment is contingent upon completing and passing a criminal background check and fingerprinting.

Irvine is proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and do not discriminate based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, disability status, or any other applicable characteristics protected by federal state or local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

ABOUT IRVINE NATURE CENTER

Located in Owings Mills, Maryland, Irvine Nature Center is the largest independent nonprofit environmental education center in the greater Baltimore region. Our mission is to encourage lifelong engagement with the natural world through environmental learning and green living. At Irvine, we inspire people to explore, respect and protect nature.

Founded in 1975 by Olivia Irvine Dodge, Irvine was originally located on the campus of St. Timothy's School in Stevenson, but its programs were so popular that it eventually outgrew the rented facilities. In June 2008, Irvine moved to 116 ecologically diverse acres in the Caves Valley donated to us by the State of Maryland. In October 2015, a very generous gift from a local philanthropist enabled us to acquire an adjacent property that brings our total footprint to nearly 210 acres. After laying out trails, mowing paths, building boardwalks, and installing directional signs, Irvine opened the property to the public on June 23, 2018.

Our 211-acre property is rich in wetlands, forests, and meadows, making it ideal for our environmental education programs and a treasured resource in a region that is becoming increasingly urban. Our campus includes a 17,200-square-foot visitor center with interactive exhibits, educational gardens, an Outdoor Classroom, a Native American site, an aviary currently housing five raptors, a 66-acre restored wetlands, and 7.5 miles of trails, all surrounded by nearly 1,400 acres of protected land. Irvine's trails and exhibit hall are open to the public year-round, Tuesday-Sunday.

We offer more than 800 environmental education opportunities each year, including school field trips, outreach to schools and the community, after-school programs, summer nature camp, Scout programs, volunteer naturalist training, a native plant seminar, and countless lectures, workshops, and special events. We also are a popular location for nature-themed weddings and birthday parties. Our popular Nature Preschool has spawned other early childhood education programs that have grown substantially over the past three years.

This wide range of programs and services has enabled us to diversify our funding and ensure our financial sustainability. FY 2019 income was generated by education programs (37%), philanthropy (35%) and special events (27%). Irvine has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

Irvine is led by a Board of Trustees composed of individuals with expertise in law, business, marketing, higher education, the environment and energy sectors, philanthropy, and the non-profit community, as well as representatives from local garden clubs, volunteers, and parents. To find out more about Irvine Nature Center, please visit our website at www.ExploreNature.org