



JOB POSTING

Position Title: Discovery Camp Counselor

Department/Division: Programs

Schedule: Monday-Friday, June 29 – Sept 4, plus training dates outlined below

Status: Seasonal, Temporary

Part-time/ Non-exempt

Reports To: BMS Camp Coordinator

Overview:

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, which comprises the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve, is a highly valued and storied organization in the Buffalo community dedicated to inspiring joyful exploration of science and nature through engaging experiences, unique resources, and exceptional staff. We believe that science creates opportunities and shapes our world. We take pride in providing an environment that inspires curiosity, self-directed learning, and fun for our guests of all ages.

Summary of Position:

The Discovery Camp Counselors provide oversight of campers enrolled in the Buffalo Museum of Science's Summer Discovery Camp programs. Counselors will work collaboratively with the Camp Coordinator, Assistant Camp Coordinator, Facilitators of Learning, Volunteers, and other Counselors to provide memorable and engaging experiences and a safe and fun summer for all campers. This position requires a friendly and positive individual who is energized by working with children ages 3 – 10. Ideal candidates will possess an interest in science and in working in an informal STEM learning environment. The ability to be adaptable, proactive, and problem-solve is also key. To maintain a safe environment, the Discovery Camp Counselors will understand and adhere to the Department of Health Children's Camp and other camp guidelines at all times.

This is a seasonal, temporary position that will end no later than Friday, September 4, 2026. Candidates must be available to attend mandatory training June 16 – 18 (exact schedule TBD) and will be regularly scheduled to work up to 37.5 hours per week for the ten weeks of summer camp. Preference will be given to candidates available for all ten weeks of camp. This season's camp dates and themes can be found on the Museum's website at sciencebuff.org/programs/discovery-camps/.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Serve as the main caretaker of their assigned Discovery Campers, including direct supervision of campers, setting up and facilitating activities, and distributing camp snacks.
- Help campers complete daily activities by working individually and in groups with campers.
- Ensure all campers are present and accounted for at all times.
- Assist campers with transitions between activities/locations in a safe, quiet, and organized manner.
- Keep classrooms and other spaces safe, clean, and organized.
- Lead campers through daily clean-up to allow for cleaning and sanitation between camp days.
- Maintain awareness of allergies, medical conditions, and special considerations of each camper (i.e., food/ environmental allergies, asthma, autism, ADHD) and always keeping campers' needs in mind.
- Serve as a point person on safety concerns and activity coordination for their designated camp group.

- Mediate relations between campers and resolve minor issues/disputes.
- Bring any major issues, including camper conflict, health and safety issues, immediately to the attention of fellow Counselors, as well as the Camp Coordinator, and/or designated staff member.
- Introduce, enforce, and role model all rules for expected behavior.
- Ensure group follows daily schedule for smooth operation of the entire Discovery Camp program.
- Communicate concerns to the Camp Coordinator and/or designated staff member, and work with them to assist in communications with parents/guardians when appropriate.
- Follow BSNS and Department of Health camp guidelines at all times.
- Additional duties as assigned.

Education, Experience, Skills, and Qualities Required:

- High school diploma or equivalent required.
- Experience working in a day-camp, educational setting, or supervising groups of children required.
- A degree, completed studies, or demonstrated strong interest in science or education preferred.
- Desire to work with children between 3-10 years of age required. Counselors will primarily be assigned to one camp age group; however, Counselors may be asked at times to supervise campers of any age or be reassigned to a different camp group as needed. A single counselor will be designated as a “Floating Counselor” and will be expected to be able to adapt to various age groups as needed, including assisting in our older camps for Grades 6-12 in weeks 1-4 of camp.
- Strong classroom/group management skills preferred.
- Experience as a special education teacher or aide, a plus.
- Enthusiastic, outgoing, patient, and flexible.
- Ability to deal with emergencies calmly and responsibly.
- Ability to work independently and as a team member.
- Have good character, integrity, adaptability and be a creative problem solver.

Physical Demands:

- Communicate effectively with small and large groups.
- Move frequently throughout the Museum and around outdoor areas adjacent to the Museum.
- Lift and transport up to 20 pounds of program materials with the assistance of a wheeled cart.
- Operate sanitation tools using proper techniques (training provided).

To Apply:

The hourly rate for this position is \$17.50 per hour. Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume to careers@sciencebuff.org. Include “*BMS Discovery Camp Counselor*” in the subject line.

Equal Opportunity Employer:

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is an equal opportunity employer, and strongly encourages expressions of interest from people of color, individuals living with disabilities, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.