



# Environmental Education Jobs at Camp Sealth

## Vashon Island, Washington

If you're looking for a job that combines kids, the environment, and amazing learning opportunities, then Camp Sealth is the place for you! Camp Sealth is located on Vashon Island in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The 400-acre property includes over a mile of saltwater beach on Puget Sound, plus evergreen forests, wetlands, and wildlife. This makes it an excellent setting for experiential learning. At Camp Sealth, we focus on hands-on, active learning in the diverse ecosystems which serve as our classroom.

Camp Sealth is owned and operated by Camp Fire USA, a nonprofit youth service organization. Camp Fire USA was established with a strong foundation and belief in providing positive outdoor experiences for youth.



The belief that children need a connection to the natural world is fundamental to the Environmental Education program at Camp Sealth. We believe in the power of nature to awaken a child's senses, curiosity, and desire to learn. Camp gives students an increased knowledge of and appreciation for the natural world. They also gain a sense of competency and empowerment as they become more self-aware and confident. Students leave camp with a sense of belonging. Staff members are educators in a huge, expanded sense of the word. You will see the positive difference you make for kids!



Because Sealth's Environmental Education Program is inquiry-based, students gain a sense of individual accomplishment when activities lead them to discover new concepts. The learning derived from trying new things and acquiring new skills empowers students. Students enjoy learning when they are doing it outdoors in a supportive community. The experience is powerful and can often be a student's fondest memory of school.



Sealth is accredited by the American Camp Association. The camp meets hundreds of standards for program quality, health, safety, facilities, and administration. ACA standards are the most widely recognized standards in the camp industry worldwide.

Working at camp is hard work, but the rewards are worth your effort. You'll leave Sealth with hundreds of memories, skills for working with children, a sense of accomplishment, and new friends. Staff gain independence and confidence in themselves. Working at camp will be an experience you'll never forget. If this sounds like the job for you—read on! Details about the job, wages, dates, and the application process are inside.



**“Worlds can be found by a child and an adult bending down and looking together under the grass stems or at the skittering of crabs in a tidal pool.”**  
-Mary Catherine Bateson

# General Information

**Qualifications for All Staff Members** All staff must be currently certified in First Aid and CPR, believe in the value of environmental education, and be willing to uphold Camp Sealth's goals, policies and standards. Employment is subject to a criminal history check, favorable reference and background checks, and verification of eligibility to work in the United States.

**Program Activity Competence** Environmental Education Instructors should have some background in Environmental Education, Natural Sciences, General Education, Recreation, Interpretation, or other related field. Instructors should also be comfortable leading groups of students in a variety of outdoor settings, be willing to learn, and able to be creative. A college degree is recommended but not required.

**Wages** Wages are established depending on experience and qualifications, starting at \$8.50 per hour.

**Schedule** For the most part, instructors will be expected to work Monday through Friday, 8 hours a day, and will have weekends off. During the term of employment, all work days, including staff training, are required. If you have a conflict during the employment period, please discuss this with the Program Manager prior to employment.

**Benefits** These include food and lodging in addition to wages, workers' compensation insurance, most weekends off, and some time off each day. Other perks include free laundry, internet access, 24-hour coffee/cocoa bar and a beautiful setting.

**College credit and Internships** Talk to your college advisor about whether this position will qualify for and internship or independent study credits. We will be glad to provide any information, reports or evaluations required for you to obtain college credit.

**Equal Opportunity** Camp Fire USA is an equal opportunity employer. In its programs and in employment, Camp Fire is available to all people without regard to race, gender, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, economic status, or mental or physical disabilities. Camp Fire USA is committed to diversity.

## How Do I Apply?

To apply for any of the spring, summer or fall staff positions at Camp Sealth, complete all of the following forms:

- ❖ Camp Sealth Staff Application
- ❖ Criminal Records Check Consent form
- ❖ Three (3) Employment Reference Request forms (only one form for returning staff)

Mail forms (please do not fax or e-mail) to:  
Camp Sealth  
14500 SW Camp Sealth Road  
Vashon WA 98070-8222

After we receive your application, camp staff will contact you to set up an interview—either in person or by phone. Staff are hired after their application has been reviewed, a personal interview has been completed, reference/background information has been verified, and qualifications have been weighed against other applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Alisa Winkler, EE Program Manager  
Alisa-w@campfire-usa.org  
206 463 3174 ext. 34

## Spring 2008

### Employment Schedule

#### Spring Environmental Education Season

April 14	Move in
April 15-29	Staff Orientation & Training
April 30	First school arrives
May 24-26	Long holiday weekend
June 13	Last school departs
June 13	Wrap-up, clean-up, evaluation, end of spring celebration
June 14	Summer staff arrives and starts training and orientation

#### Sample Daily Schedule

7:45	KPs report to dining hall
8:00	Breakfast
9:15	Classes start
12:15	Classes end KPs report to dining hall
12:30	Lunch
1:15	Classes begin
4:15	Classes end Snack
4:30	Open Time begins
5:45	Open Time ends KPs report to dining hall
6:00	Dinner
7:15	Evening activity
After Dark	sometimes a night hike
9 or 10 pm	students return to cabins

#### Summer Employment

If you are interested in working at Sealth for the summer, download the summer employment guide from [http://www.campfire-usa.org/employment/Campemployment\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.campfire-usa.org/employment/Campemployment_brochure.pdf) for more information. Summer employment starts in June with two weeks of staff orientation and over 100 staff. Sealth offers a wide range of summer activities for youth ages 6-17... boating, campouts, crafts, drama, horseback riding, and much more. Summer positions include: naturalist, cabin counselor, unit leader, program specialists (waterfront, archery, challenge, horseback riding, etc.), and many more.



All application materials can be downloaded from our website: [www.campfire-usa.org/employment\\_seasonal.htm](http://www.campfire-usa.org/employment_seasonal.htm)

# Details for EE Staff Candidates

## Curriculum

The focus of the instruction is on creating an experience where students are inspired to learn and explore. Instructors teach classes in the following study areas:

- ❖ Students study the cycles and systems of forests in the Pacific Northwest in the **Forest** class. Students hike, explore, and discover in the forest as they do activities that illustrate the diversity and interdependence of a forest's elements



- ❖ During **Marine**, students learn about the cool waters of the Puget Sound. They discover the abundance and diversity of living things found along our coast as they explore the beach or look closely at the intertidal invertebrates in our touch tanks.
- ❖ **Wetlands** is a class where students may play the role of a migrating bird or catch and examine insect larvae as they learn about wetland indicators and the function of wetlands.
- ❖ Students explore the universe in **Astronomy**. They learn about the planets as they hike up to the Star Lab through a scale model of our solar system. Concepts like gravity, moon phases, tides, and why we have seasons are also explored.
- ❖ Students learn how to build a fire and a shelter, how to use a compass, or how to prepare for a day outside during the **Outdoor Living Skills** class. They also learn the value of leave no trace principles.



- ❖ **Sustainability** is a class designed to increase students' awareness of human impact on the environment as well as offer positive ways in which we can reduce our impact. In this class, students might examine the worms in Sealth's composting bin or taste vegetables in the beautiful organic garden.

## Activities

In addition to teaching, staff will be trained to facilitate activities like archery, boating, arts & crafts, and low ropes challenge course. Staff will also share the responsibility of assisting with evening activities like night hikes and scavenger hunts.

- ❖ **Arts & Crafts** is offered to students during their open time. Sealth offers a wide variety of crafts projects that vary by age and ability. Projects include candle-making, tie-dye, handmade paper, lanyards, friendship bracelets, and more.
- ❖ **Archery** is offered to students as a class and/or during open time. Instructors will get NAA Level 1 Archery certified and will learn the basics of teaching archery, range safety, & equipment maintenance so they can facilitate archery.



- ❖ **Challenge Course** consists of cooperative games, initiatives and a low ropes challenge course. At the challenge course, students learn skills such as communication, group problem-solving, leadership, and group decision-making. Instructors will go through a Low Ropes Challenge Course Facilitator training where they will learn about safety, facilitation, and debriefing techniques.
- ❖ **Canoeing** is offered to students as a class and/or during open time. Instructors will get Small Craft Safety certified and will learn basic safety as well as rescues and assists for canoeing.



- ❖ **Night Hikes** are quiet and mellow organized hikes where participants don't use flashlights. This helps them become more comfortable in the dark as they learn to pay attention to their other senses. Several activities help students learn about nocturnal animal adaptations as well as how our own eyes adjust for use in the dark.

- ❖ **Scavenger Hunts** are fun evening activities where students have a chance to use a map and follow clues to find several "camp spirits" hiding around camp. If they are able to answer questions correctly and entertain the spirits, they are given more clues until they have found all the spirits.

**“People who care conserve; People who don’t know don’t care.  
What is the extinction of the condor to a child who has  
never known a wren?”**  
-Robert Michael Pile



## Program Structure for Schools and Students

Schools select from our wide variety of curriculum choices, and schedules are designed to meet each organization’s needs. Therefore, the program varies from school to school to allow students and teachers to have the most positive, beneficial experience possible. It is amazing to see how camp can allow students to be successful in ways that the structure of a school environment may not allow them to be.

## Training & Support

Two weeks of training and orientation precedes the first school group to attend the program. Sealth provides you with curriculum and training to teach each subject, but encourage you to use our guidelines to adapt the curriculum to your own teaching style. During your training sessions, we will cover the curriculum, lesson planning, the teaching tools you'll use, program mechanics, and everyone's role... yours, ours, the kids, the teachers, the chaperones, etc. Year round and experienced staff will coach and guide you every step of the way until you are comfortable and competent in your job. The EE manager provides close daily supervision and support of the program throughout the season.



## Other Duties

In addition to teaching and facilitation responsibilities, instructors are expected to share the responsibility of taking care of program areas that support the EE program. For example, they may be asked to help feed the worms in the compost bin, water and weed in the garden, or clean out the touch tanks and feed the invertebrates that live there. Also, at the end of a school's visit it's all hands on deck to clean the cabins and bathrooms to get them ready for the next group in camp.

## Co-workers

Camp Sealth employs 10 year-round camp professionals including Maintenance staff, a Food Service Manager, Rental Manager, Administrative Assistant, Program Managers, and Camp Director. During the spring season we hire an additional 7-8 staff to teach Environmental Education. A few others are also hired to help in the kitchen and with program support.

## Housing

EE Instructors live in a dorm style cabin with fellow staff members. The dorm has the basics: heat, electricity, a bed, and dresser or place to store clothes. Bathrooms are not located in the same building, but are nearby. Shared living space and a staff lounge are centrally located. Meals are served in the dining hall whenever there is a group in camp. On the rare occasion that the kitchen is not preparing food, a communal kitchen is available.

## Camp Facilities

Some of the buildings, including the dining hall, were built by volunteers in the early years of Sealth. Most facilities were built within the last 50 years. A variety of cabins clustered into groups give students a community living experience. All units have a centrally located “Suzy” or “Freddy” with electricity, flush toilets, and hot showers. Covered program areas and buildings are great for use on the occasional rainy day.

Contact Us:

Phone: 206 463 3174  
Fax: 206 463 6936  
E-mail: [campstaff@campfire-usa.org](mailto:campstaff@campfire-usa.org)  
[www.campfire-usa.org](http://www.campfire-usa.org)

Camp Sealth  
14500 SW Camp Sealth Road  
Vashon WA 98070-8222