



## Position Opening

### **Wild Whatcom Mentor**

Wild Whatcom is a flourishing non-profit organization dedicated to connecting youth to nature and developing positive character traits through outdoor exploration and discovery. We provide experiential learning opportunities that inspire participants to explore, connect, and serve, while building healthy relationships with nature, community, and self.

Wild Whatcom seeks a motivated and highly-skilled educator to co-lead nature explorations, outdoor skills sessions, service projects, summer camps, and wilderness trips for a variety of Wild Whatcom programs. Because this mentor will work in girls-specific programming, we are seeking a candidate who identifies as female or non-binary.

### **Position Description & Logistics**

Wild Whatcom Mentors help organize and guide outings for youth throughout Whatcom County. Compensation begins at \$14 per hour, with a likely increase within the first year, based on positive performance and additional duties. This Mentor position will be a part-time, year-round.

**Position #1 start date: Wednesday, June 13, 2018**

**Position #2 start date: Tuesday, September 4th, 2018**

**\*Applications accepted through Monday, May 7, 2018.**

**Please note if you are applying for Position #1, Position #2, or both in your cover letter\***

**Position #1:** Applicants will need to be available for a paid summer training June 15-16 (including an overnight), with part-time work July-August. From September-June, this position will feature a light level of weekend work and a moderate level of weekday work. See specific details of this position's seasonal variability below:

<b>Summer (June 10-August 20, 2018)</b>	<b>2018-19 School Year (August 20, 2018-June 10, 2019)</b>
4-6 weeks, spread out over this time period, working as a Mentor for our summer camps. Each week includes approximately 20 hours of work including preparation and field time. Main program: Summer Adventures	Potential for 80-120 hours/month (average of 20-30 hours/week with some seasonal variability) working across a variety of midweek and weekend programs. This position will include work in both school programs and weekend programs. For more descriptions of potential program work, please see below.

**Position #2:** From September-June, this position will feature a moderate level of weekend work (see below), which will then transition to half-time work during summer. Additional hours will likely be available for the 2018-19 school year if desired. See specific details of this position's seasonal variability below:

<b>2018-19 School Year</b> <b>(August 20, 2018-June 10, 2019)</b>	<b>Summer</b> <b>(June 10-August 20, 2019)</b>
<p>Potential for 35-40 hours/month, average of 7-12 hrs/week (with potential for increase as the season progresses) primarily in the Thursday-Sunday program Girls Explorers Club (see below). Possibility for light work in school programs during the week, about 3-6 hrs/week. For more descriptions of potential mid-week program work, please see below.</p>	<p>3-6 weeks, spread out over this time period, working as a Mentor for our summer camps or backpack trips. Each week includes approximately 40 hours of work including preparation and field time. Main program: Summer Adventures</p>

### **Responsibilities**

- Co-lead a variety of outings with child-led, inquiry-based, experiential, and playful approaches
- Participate in all required training with enthusiasm and engagement
- Awaken a sense of wonder, teaching natural history and outdoor skills while exploring local areas
- Facilitate collaborative leadership and decision-making skills
- Practice effective risk management at all times, creating a safe learning experience for all participants
- Maintain clear, responsive, honest, and respectful communications with participants, families, and staff
- Serve as a mentor to participants, adjusting to individual and group needs. Work closely with other members of the field staff team to plan, prepare, and lead outings
- Assist with gear maintenance, storage, and coordination
- Assist with program logistics
- Support and contribute to documentation/record keeping
- Remain professional and timely with in-person and email communications, meetings, deadlines, and other required duties
- Share concerns and seek advice from Program Coordinators, Program Managers, and Executive Director to ensure program quality

### **Required Qualifications**

- Humor, adaptability, and inspiration for facilitating meaningful connections to nature and community
- Strong work ethic and professional work habits (punctual, responsive, organized, detailed)
- Superior interpersonal and written communications skills

- Environmental (or outdoor or youth) education experience
- Knowledge of ecology and outdoor skills
- Experience working with children, preferably ages 6-14
- Demonstrated ability to monitor variable conditions constantly to ensure group safety while also remaining attentive and focused on learning goals and the unique needs of each participant
- Ability to prioritize effectively and handle multiple projects and deadlines simultaneously
- Flexibility, and vision to engage with a growing organization
- Competency with Google systems, Excel, and online media tools, and access to a computer
- Reliable method of transportation and mobile phone
- Valid driver's license and excellent driving record (background check is required)
- Ability to carry 30+ lbs in a variety of weather and terrain
- Current First Aid/CPR Certification
- Tetanus booster within the past 5 years

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification
- A regular personal practice of connection with the outdoors
- Familiarity with collaborative learning techniques and child-led discovery
- Experience leading groups over varied terrain on multi-day trips in the backcountry
- Spanish language proficiency

### **To Apply: Deadline to apply is Monday, May 7, 2018**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and contact information for two references to [jobs@wildwhatcom.org](mailto:jobs@wildwhatcom.org), with an email subject heading of "Wild Whatcom Mentor Application". Please note if you are applying for Position #1, Position #2, or both within your cover letter. All materials should be sent as attachments in PDF format. Please direct any questions to [jobs@wildwhatcom.org](mailto:jobs@wildwhatcom.org).

Before actual hire, prospective employees must pass a thorough background check. If any concerns arise, we will review them with the candidate and evaluate potential implications within a broader context and relevance to the position.

Wild Whatcom is actively committed to social equity and justice and encourages candidates of all racial and gender identities, cultural and economic backgrounds, and of any sexual orientation to apply.

Wild Whatcom is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, or marital status in employment or the provision of services.

## **Additional Information: Possible program areas**

**Explorers Club:** The Explorers Club (EC) cultivates naturalist knowledge, sense of adventure, earth skills, and a community stewardship ethic for youth ages 7-16. With the natural world as a starting point, you will help develop and lead innovative experiential learning opportunities that inspire participants to explore, connect, and serve, while building healthy relationships with nature, community and self.

*(Mentors will lead outings for 3-5 EC groups Thursdays through Sundays)*

**Summer Adventures:** Our summer programs are big adventure days immersed in exploring the Northwest's mossy forests, wild rivers, mountain meadows, tumbling waterfalls, and pebbled beaches. We are looking for candidates available for intermittent summer work in 2018 for our camp and backpacking programs. Summer hours are episodic, with some full-time weeks and some weeks entirely off. (Program takes place late June through August).

**EdVentures:** Wild Whatcom provides nature outings for classrooms at various public schools. These 2-4 hour outings provide an opportunity for kids to connect to nature while experiencing hands-on environmental education. Mentors will co-lead a group of students through the inquiry process while modeling effective outdoor education strategies for teachers to inspire them to take their classes outside! (Program takes place on weekdays).

**SEED:** (Student Experiential Education and Discovery) In this program, mentors facilitate nature outings for students in the Life Skills program within Bellingham Public Schools (students with moderate to severe developmental disabilities). This fun and inspirational program allows Wild Whatcom staff to partner with Life Skills teachers to provide an opportunity for students to have access to the outdoors and to connect to nature. (Program takes place on weekdays).

**Neighborhood Nature:** Guide after-school outings during the academic year. (Program typically takes place weekdays between 1:00 and 5:00PM for 8 weeks each in fall and spring and 6 weeks in winter).

### **Special Projects in addition to Field Work:**

The position may include a variety of special project work in addition to field mentoring, especially for weeks when there is less field work scheduled. These projects vary in size, skills needed, and schedule. Potential projects include: Curricula Development, Gear Management, Office Coordination, Logistics Coordination, etc.