



AmeriCorps

**Position Title:** Forest School Mentor

**Position Service Site:** Kickapoo Valley Forest School (La Farge, WI)

**Service Time:** September 1, 2026 – May 28, 2027 (1,200 hours total, 39 weeks, 35 hours per week)

**Benefits:** Living stipend total for the whole term = \$16,500 (\$423.08 per week). An additional housing stipend of \$4,875 total for the whole term (\$125 per week) will also be provided. An AmeriCorps Education Award of approximately \$5,176 will be awarded upon successful completion of service.

**Requirement:** Covid-19 Vaccine

**OVERVIEW:** The Kickapoo Valley Forest and Field Schools (KVFS) strive to create a child-centered, safe, inclusive, and sensory-rich environment in which children will learn and grow through play and exploration in the beautiful and abundant natural environment that surrounds our community. Our education philosophy is rooted in the belief that child development is at its best when the whole child is honored, and that ‘play’ in a rich environment is the true work of the child. We also recognize that children are individuals whose interests, capacities and gifts demand that our teaching style and environment be accessible from many different points and levels of ability. Additionally, as humans we thrive in environments full of love, inspiration, wonder, connection and beauty.

**SERVICE DESCRIPTION:** The Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS) place-based curriculum is based on the experiences that the students encounter throughout the seasons. Enthusiasm and willingness to explore and learn along with the students is a quality we seek in the Forest School Mentor. The Forest School Mentor will work alongside dedicated teachers to help provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for our youngest learners. The Kickapoo Valley Forest School Mentor will work with the school daily during the school year.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee, guide and engage with students as they explore nature both individually and in small groups.
- Observe children as they play and engage in nature, listening to and learning about children through this play.
- Co-create and facilitate nature themed small group lessons, games and art projects.
- Support place-based curriculum led by teachers.
- Provide thoughtful, conscious supervision for students while outside in a variety of settings.
- Help facilitate student work time where students choose from a variety of activities on an individual basis
- Facilitate and tend to children’s needs while hiking for long distances.
- Help children maintain and put on outdoor clothing and gear.
- Remain outdoors for extended periods of time, in all weather conditions, and while traversing rugged terrain.
- Show enthusiasm for being outside in all weather conditions and for the natural world.
- Model appropriate outdoor clothing choices.
- Participate in a high-energy and rigorous outdoor learning environment.
- Model age-appropriate play and language.
- Be a model for wondering at and respecting the natural world, helping children to do the same.
- Attend family events outside of school hours.

#### TRAININGS OFFERED:

- Basic First Aid
- Week-long in-service and professional development relevant to orienting to the KVFS Way.
  - August 24-27, paid on separate KVFS contract
- Other professional development offered throughout the school year

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum age requirement is 18 years old.
- A citizen of the United States, a United States national, or a legal permanent resident of the United States
- Must possess a strong interest in nature, the outdoors, and working with youth
- Access to reliable personal transportation is required
- Able to perform duties in a variety of weather conditions including inclement weather, heat, intense sunshine, cold, high winds, rain, snow, and in the presence of biting insects
- Enthusiastic, dependable, creative and flexible
- Outdoor recreation experience is a plus
- Experience teaching or working with youth is a plus
- Withstand the physical demands of work including lifting, carrying, bending, and hiking across uneven terrain
- Ability to perform the essential duties of the position with or without reasonable accommodation
- Ability to multitask and shift schedule and priorities to meet changing conditions
- Upon hire, a criminal background check will be conducted. Service with WisCorps will be considered probationary until all results are returned and have been reviewed

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