



## Education Field Technician

### Job Summary

Under the supervision of Sierra Streams Institute Program Coordinator, the Field Technician will assist with planning and implementation of field programs for a collaborative education and research project between Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSoS) office, Sierra Streams Institute and the Center for Community and Citizen Science at the UC Davis School of Education. This project is being funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the years 2019-2022. The job begins in August 2021 and funding will run for 2 years of seasonal work with summers off.

The Field Technician will work closely with elementary teachers, education researchers, and environmental educators to run educational field experiences for a community-based citizen science education program with 3rd-5th grade classes in Nevada County. As part of this program, students will investigate their local forest health by collecting, analyzing, and sharing data on forest and fire ecology. Teachers will participate in professional learning workshops which support them in leading these investigations in or near their own schools, and aligning this work with science curriculum standards. The field technician will be based at the Sierra Streams Institute office and will travel to school sites within the County to assist with the implementation of the program.

**Position and Timeline:** Interviews to take place in July 2021. The job begins in August 2021 and runs through August 2023. The two year position follows the regular school year with work August 1 through June 15 and has summers off. Position is 50% time with higher hours during peak months, which are August to November and February to May.

**Compensation:** \$22/hour

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** The Field Technician will be responsible for supervising and guiding groups of up to 15 students in outdoor, hands-on activities, facilitating classroom activities, and conducting virtual educational activities in the case of distance learning.

**Supervisor:** Project Manager for Our Forests



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### Essential Functions and Responsibilities

1. Assisting in program development and implementation;
2. Guiding groups of up to 15 3rd-5th grade students in outdoor learning: teaching and assisting them with collection of forest health and fire resiliency data in a forested plot, while managing group dynamics and safety;
3. Assisting students in the classroom with entering their data into an online platform, visualizing and analyzing their data, holding scientific conversations regarding their findings, and communicating their research to external audiences;
4. Leading virtual educational activities in the case of distance learning;
5. Performing research activities, including administering consent forms and student surveys;
6. Working with teachers and project staff on curriculum development for student citizen science field experiences;
7. Working with a team to lead the sharing of student research findings on forest health through community events, such as at the STEAM Expo;
8. Assisting with coordinating with community partners such as City of Nevada City, Land Trust, State Parks, etc;
9. Assisting with the setup of forested plots near school sites, including removing hazards (such as poison oak), creating signage, clearing trails, and marking boundaries;
10. Assisting with the creation, proper maintenance, and management of curriculum tools and materials, such as laminated field instructions, forestry tools, tape measures, pencils, etc.
11. Supporting all staff and participant health and safety through following COVID-19 precautions, such as maintaining social distancing, sanitizing tools/materials between users, and supporting students in carrying out safety measures;
12. Working a varied schedule based on program needs; will require some early evening hours.

*Note: The list of essential functions and physical requirements is not exhaustive and may be supplemented as necessary.*

### Desirable Qualifications

#### Knowledge of or experience with:

- Effectively and safely lead groups of elementary students in both outdoor and indoor settings.
- NGSS elementary curriculum.
- Implementing science curriculum, especially project-based learning in environmental science. Writing science curriculum a plus.
- Equitable and anti-racist education practices, such as being able to identify and support the unique needs of all students, particularly those whose needs are not met by the lesson as it is designed.
- Analyzing situations accurately and adopting an effective course of action.
- Coordinating with community partners for school projects.
- High comfort level working with Google Apps and Microsoft Office applications (spreadsheets, word processing, presentation slides).
- Experience with database and/or citizen science database platforms.



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- Strong public speaking skills a plus.
- Knowledge of contemporary environmental challenges in Nevada County a plus.
- Research and data collection and evaluation methods and procedures; experience collecting Citizen Science student data a plus.
- CPR and First Aid Training a plus.

### **Physical Demands (with or without reasonable accommodations):**

- Guide students safely through forested environments, including navigating trails and marked forested plots.
- Sit and stand for extended periods of time.
- See and read printed materials
- Hear and understand speech on the telephone, at normal room levels, and in workshop and training sessions.
- Speak in audible tones so that others may understand clearly in normal conversation in person, on the telephone, and presenting at workshops and trainings.
- Operate a telephone, computer, copier, calculator and other commonly used office equipment.
- Push, pull and lift any object weighing up to 25 pounds and carry any object weighing up to 15 pounds.
- Drive a vehicle.

### **Education and Experience**

Applicants may qualify for this position through a combination of training and experience that provide them with the required knowledge and skills. We reserve the right to determine if a candidate meets the qualifications.

A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

- Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in education, environmental science, or education or science focus; OR equivalent non-academic experience and demonstrable knowledge and skills in science education.
- At least one (1) years' experience in safely guiding elementary school students in outdoor environments.



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**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:** These requirements must be met prior to working with students.

Must provide proof of eligibility to work in the United States

Must possess a valid California Driver's License

Must provide proof of automobile insurance coverage

Sierra Streams will support you in receiving:

Fingerprint and Background clearance (paid for by Sierra Streams)

Valid Tuberculosis (TB) clearance (paid for by Sierra Streams)

### **Additional Benefits:**

- Flexible schedule
- Potential for hours increase or permanent position pending performance and funding

**Application Information:** Position is open until filled.

Please send resume, cover letter and contact information for three references to Education Program Co-Director, Sol Henson at [sol@sierrastreamsinstitute.org](mailto:sol@sierrastreamsinstitute.org). Write "Education Field Technician" in the subject line.