

Cold River Camp Naturalist Program - Goals, Qualifications and Job Description

Our **Program Goal** is to provide opportunities for enjoyment and education by exploring the natural world and conservation issues.

Our **Qualifications** should include being a professional or amateur naturalist with substantial knowledge about the natural world, possessing familiarity with both Cold River Camp (CRC) and the surrounding geographic region, and demonstrating the skills to provide activities and learning opportunities for adults and children as a teacher and facilitator. Each CRC Naturalist should also be a qualified Trip Leader, having Wilderness First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Leadership, and Risk Management certifications as required by the Appalachian Mountain Club and Cold River Camp

Elements in the **Job Description** of a CRC Naturalist include leading four full day trips each week and presenting one evening program, preferably on a natural history topic. By observing natural phenomena and exploring questions about flora, fauna, weather, and other natural and cultural history topics with guests of all ages, the CRC Naturalist can encourage development of outdoor skills. With guests, the CRC Naturalist shares knowledge, explores observations, helps with guidebooks and references, and encourages learning. Depending on weather, expertise, and guest interest, naturalist opportunities occur in the field during walks, hikes, water trips, or field trips to areas of natural interest plus around camp with presentations, educational displays, discovery showcases, nature study or craft activities.

The CRC Naturalist will coordinate plans with Camp Managers and the other Trip Leaders at camp each week. The CRC Naturalist should be comfortable leading moderate hiking trips such as Speckled or Caribou and optimally more challenging trips such as the Baldfaces as well as paddling trips. A tentative weekly schedule will be prepared on Saturday, subject to modification due to weather, safety concerns, and guest interest. Like all Trip Leaders, the CRC Naturalist will post Trip Announcements, invite participation in activities, and fill out Trip Reports following all led hikes/paddles/activities to be placed in the Trip Report Log.

Learn and grow with the privilege to share one's passion in the natural world. The CRC Naturalist will seek to cultivate a sense of wonder and curiosity for guests of all ages. We lead and guide by fostering skills, expanding understanding, seeking beauty, and finding pleasure in nature and with those around us at Cold River Camp.