NATURE INTERPRETER

Code No.: 4-15-019

COMPETITIVE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position is responsible for assisting in the development and preparation of nature study programs, displays, nature trails, and exhibits of natural history. The employee reports directly to, and works under the general supervision of, a Supervising Nature Interpreter, Director of Parks and Recreation, Superintendent of Recreational and Educational Programs, or other higher level staff member. Direct supervision of others is not a responsibility of this class, however, the incumbent may provide lead supervision over seasonal and/or part-time employees, volunteers or interns. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (All need not be performed in a given position. Other related activities may be performed although not listed.)

Coordinates special events;

Develops and maintains nature trails;

Develops exhibits on natural history;

Plans and conducts environmental and ecological educational programs for groups or individuals;

Prepares and presents lectures for presentation at the parks or for community groups, schools, or agencies;

Interprets plant and animal life in park areas;

Interprets geological background, topography, and natural history of park areas;

Assists in maintenance of program facilities;

Handles live animals.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of the natural environment, including plant and animal life, and geology; ability to develop nature trails and displays; ability to coordinate special events; ability to speak in public and in front of groups; ability to follow oral and written directions; ability to conduct walks, tours, and study programs; ability to recognize and identify wildlife and plants; ability to work well with the public; good judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma plus, EITHER:

(A)   Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree (or sixty (60) college semester credit hours) with major study (at least eighteen (18) semester credit hours) in Biology, Botany, Education, Environmental or Earth Science, Environmental Studies, Forestry, Forestry and Recreation, Geology, Horticulture, Wildlife Management, or Zoology, or a closely related field*; OR,

(B)   Two (2) years of paid full-time or its part-time or volunteer** equivalent experience in assembling or developing displays or exhibits for nature study, horticulture, landscaping, or parks management, OR in program development and implementation of interpretive nature or wildlife education; OR,

(C)   Any equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B).

*NOTE: Candidates who meet the minimum qualification under (A) must submit an official or student copy of a college transcript, or an itemized list of course work and credits received, at the time of application.

**Volunteer experience must be documented by the participating agency. Employment dates, average number of hours worked per week, and job duties must be included.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:
If you are appointed, you will be required to have a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in New York State or otherwise demonstrate your capacity to meet the transportation needs of the job.

REVISED: July 21, 1977
REVISED: December 23, 1981
REVISED: March 31, 1988
REVISED: November 7, 1996
REVISED: September 4, 2008

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Depending on the position duties, candidates for employment with the Monroe County Government will be required to pass a pre-employment drug test.

Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.