Black Hill Nature Programs
Teacher-Naturalist Application Packet

Black Hill Nature Programs is currently accepting applications for teachers interested in its 2020 Teacher-Naturalist program. The application deadline is April 15th. In this packet you will find relevant information that you would need to apply for these professional development opportunities. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Katrina Fauss at Katrina.Fauss@montgomeryparks.org or 301-528-3482.

What is the Teacher-Naturalist Program?

The Teacher-Naturalist program at Black Hill Nature Programs (BHNP) is a 4 to 6 week intensive professional development opportunity for local teachers. Teachers will be given opportunities to learn best environmental education practices from park naturalists and staff first-hand. Teachers will be required to develop a project that fits the educational needs and goals of BHNP and to bring their students on a field experience during the school year.

What are the goals of the Teacher-Naturalist Programs?

- To increase the environmental literacy of teachers and students in Montgomery County
- To support the professional development of Montgomery County teachers
- To strengthen the field of practice of environmental education in Montgomery County
- To increase environmental stewardship among teachers and students

Will I be paid for the experience?

The selected candidate will earn a $2,500 stipend at the conclusion of their season and $500 stipend for attending the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators Conference in February 2021. Candidates must register as a park volunteer and successfully complete a background check.

What will be required of me to participate?

Each teacher will be required to
- be at BHNP for 4 to 6 weeks throughout the summer 2020.
- attend trainings throughout the experience.
- complete a curriculum-based project in conjunction with staff.
- register as a park volunteer and pass a background check.
- deliver a presentation to Friends of Black Hill Nature Programs at the end of the experience.
- bring your students back to the park for a meaningful watershed education experience.
What trainings will I receive as part of this program?

Throughout the summer, the Teacher Naturalist will participate in trainings. These additional professional development opportunities will cover a variety of key topics in environmental education instruction, such as 1) Using nature as your classroom 2) Building a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience 3) Free “Play” in nature and 4) Environmental Literacy Standards and you. Other support materials and professional development will be provided to the Teacher Naturalist and will incorporate the themes of Building a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience, Natural Resources of Montgomery Parks, Montgomery Parks as Resources, and Mentoring by Park Naturalists and Park Staff.

What if my school can’t afford for the students to participate in the Field Experience in the parks?

There are funds available to help with classroom supplies and field trips costs. You will work with the park naturalist to determine exact amounts.

How do I apply for the Teacher-Naturalist Program?

You can fill out the online application at http://goo.gl/forms/BPStllZO4v or contact us for a hard copy.

Who do I contact for more information and questions?

Please contact Katrina Fauss at Katrina.Fauss@montgomeryparks.org or 301-528-3482 for more information.