Position: Science Educator

Organization: Asombro Institute for Science Education (Las Cruces, New Mexico)

Hours and Duration: This is a salaried, full-time position for one year with a high probability of extension contingent on performance and funding. Preferred starting date is July 15, 2019, although an earlier or later start date is possible.

Reports to: Science Education Program Leader (Elementary Education)

Scope of Position: The nonprofit Asombro Institute for Science Education is seeking a dedicated, energetic, exceptional science educator. The Science Educator works with other staff members, professional scientists, teachers, and volunteers to deliver Asombro’s award-winning, inquiry-based science education programs (classroom and schoolyard lessons as well as field trips) to the diverse student population of the border region in southern New Mexico. The Science Educator must be passionate about teaching science to K-12 students. Must be creative, adaptable, and willing to work nontraditional hours and occasional weekends when large projects occur. Must be able to occasionally start work as early as 6:30 AM when teaching at a distant school. This position requires excellent communication skills, willingness to be a team player, innovation, and excitement that no workday will ever be the same.

Major Job Responsibilities:
1) Prepare for and deliver Asombro’s award-winning science education programs (including classroom lessons, science activities at other events, and field trips to Asombro’s 935-acre Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park and the USDA Jornada Experimental Range) to K-12 students throughout New Mexico and the El Paso, Texas region (ca. 90%). A majority of work for this position will be with kindergarten through 5th grade students, including many Spanish-English bilingual students and English learners.
2) Assist with other Asombro science education and administrative projects, such as teacher professional development workshops, collaborative projects with other regional organizations, lesson revisions, lesson development, communication activities, and other duties as needed (ca. 10%).

Required Skills and Experience:
The successful candidate will be an excellent educator, skilled at communicating scientific practices and natural science concepts in an age-appropriate manner to K-12 students and teachers in a variety of settings. Spanish fluency is not required but is highly desired. The Science Educator must be internally motivated and able to work independently on assigned tasks as well as to work as part of a diverse team with a spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Other requirements include:
- A Bachelor’s degree in natural science, education, or related field
- 2+ years experience teaching natural science concepts using hands-on, inquiry-based methods to K-12 students and teachers
- Comfortable teaching and working both in classrooms and outdoors
- Excitement about working with Spanish-speaking students and finding ways to communicate science concepts to English learners
- Extremely well organized and self-motivated
- Exemplary collaboration skills
- Working knowledge of common software such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Pages
- Ability to carry 30+ pounds
- Valid U.S. driver’s license
- Must pass a background check

Other desirable qualifications:
- Spanish fluency (highly desired)
- Familiarity with Next Generation Science Standards
- Knowledge of desert ecology
Organizational Information: The Asombro Institute for Science Education is a 29-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing natural science literacy through engaging, place-based education. Asombro’s seven staff members deliver hands-on, inquiry-based science education programs to more than 25,000 K-12 students, 800 teachers, and 700 other adults annually. Most programs are inquiry-based classroom lessons, but Asombro also conducts teacher workshops, public events, and field trips to our 935-acre Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park and the adjacent USDA Jornada Experimental Range. While the topics and formats of programs vary widely, all Asombro programs are (1) inquiry-based, (2) related to current, local research through partnerships with scientists, and (3) aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and other national education standards.

Terms: The Asombro Institute for Science Education is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability.

Salary: $34,000/year

Benefits: 12 paid holidays and 22 days (176 hours) of flexible, paid time off, which includes vacation and sick leave (increasing to 27 days after five years of service). Health and vision insurance.

Application Deadline: We will begin reviewing applications immediately and will accept applications until July 5, 2019 or until position is filled.

To Apply: Submit a cover letter, resume, full contact information (including email address) for three references, and unofficial college transcripts. Please combine cover letter, resume, and reference information into a single Pages, Word, or PDF document (transcripts may be a separate file). Applications must include all of the components listed above to be considered.

Send application package to:
Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Executive Director
stephanie@asombro.org