



# KENAI MOUNTAINS – TURNAGAIN ARM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

## PATHFINDERS SUMMER PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR

**Position Title:** Pathfinders Summer Program Instructor

**Reports:** Education Programs Manager

**Compensation:** \$20-\$23/hour, 30-40 hours/week

**Dates:** June-August 2024 (see program schedule and minimum work commitment below)

**Status:** Summer seasonal

**Location:** Programs operated throughout the KMTA National Heritage Area (Bird, Indian, Girdwood, Whittier, Hope, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing and Seward). Office work done remotely.

**Organization Overview:** The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA) is Alaska's only National Heritage Area (NHA), dedicated to preserving the culture and wild landscape of a historic part of Southcentral Alaska and the Eastern Kenai Peninsula. When the NHA was established, a nonprofit was also created to manage it: the KMTA National Heritage Corridor Communities Association (KMTA CCA). For much of the organization's history, KMTA CCA supported the small communities throughout this region (from Indian to Seward) through federal sub-grants. But a lot has changed since our inception, and we've identified key gaps we're uniquely positioned to fill in this present moment. Over the last few years, we've pivoted our focus to expanding access to the opportunities this region has to offer through direct and sustainable programs. We've achieved a lot of success through the development of a series of signature recreational events and year-round outdoor learning programs for local Alaskan youth. We are also in the process of wrapping up our next strategic plan, which includes a refreshed mission, vision, and priority areas to guide our work for the next 5 years. We are in the midst of an exciting growth phase for our organization and are ready to expand our reach!

**Job Description:** Over the past few years, KMTA has successfully developed a series of immersive outdoor learning programs for local Alaskan youth. This includes our two-night, three-day Alaska Outdoor School for 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Portage Valley, SnowSchool, Fresh Air Fridays afterschool & in-service day program, and Coastal Connections Camp. Building on our programs' success, we are expanding our summer program offerings to include Pathfinders- a trails-based outdoor education program designed to empower kids from across Southcentral Alaska to build skills, have adventures, and create lasting connections to our living heritage via our local trails. Program Instructors will become a part of our growing Education team and support the planning, execution, and development of the Pathfinders program.

Instructors can expect to work Monday – Thursday, 30 to 40 hours per week. This includes:

- 1 day of program prep: e.g. lesson planning, meeting with partner staff, organizing materials and communication with participants.
- 2 days of programs: program days run 9am to 4pm and include meeting participants at the designated location, driving to and the program location, and co-leading the day's activities alongside partner staff & volunteers.
- 1 day of gear reset, reporting, and debriefing.

This is a summer seasonal position with a mix of "office work" that can be done remotely from a computer, and in-person outdoor program days with youth. Some program days may exceed 8 hours/day, in which case the employee will be compensated at 1.5 times their hourly rate for those hours worked in excess. We anticipate opening additional contract/seasonal employment opportunities for instructors for our school year programs (Fresh Air Fridays, Outdoor School, and SnowSchool) for interested candidates pending additional funding.

The Pathfinders summer 2024 schedule is:

June 3 – 6      June 17 - 20      July 15 - 18      July 29 – Aug 1      August 5 - 8      August 12 - 15

## **Job Responsibilities**

- Attend staff training and become familiar with KMTA program descriptions, goals, ages served, and locations.
  - To be eligible for employment, applicants must commit to a minimum of three program weeks.
- Plan and deliver outdoor education programs to local youth ages 6 – 12.
  - Establish and manage a positive culture in each participant group that is safe, respectful, curious, and fun.
  - Manage participants' physical and emotional safety/risk; respond to emergencies as they arise according to KMTA policies and support structures.
  - Interact with participants' families with professionalism, empathy, and clear communication.
- Learn about the Kenai Mountains – Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area and incorporate content into lessons.
- Collaborate with education staff and program partners co-instructors through co-teaching, joint lesson planning, and communicating feedback.
- Safely drive 15-passenger van.

## **Qualifications**

- Resident in a KMTA community during term of employment (June – August 2024): Bird, Indian, Girdwood, Whittier, Hope, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, or Seward. Priority will be given to year-round residents.
- Experience working with youth with preference for outdoor education/outdoor camp experience.
- Personable and able to build rapport and trust with others.
- Positive attitude, a learning orientation, and a can-do approach to problem solving.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and team-building skills.
- Must be able to work independently, but also be comfortable with collaborative working relationships, relating well with people and partners at all levels and from all communities.
- Ability to pass a background check to work with minors.
- Current Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification.
- Able to comfortably hike 8 miles over varied terrain.
- Able to comfortably walk on slippery, uneven terrain.
- Ability to lift and/or move up to 25 pounds.
- Clean driving record.
- Must have access to a computer.
- Must have reliable transportation, valid driver's license and auto insurance.
- Punctual and reliable.

## **How to Apply:**

Please send via email the following items:

1. Your resume
2. In the body of your email, a quick note indicating which of the following weeks you are available to work:
  - June 3-6
  - June 17-20
  - July 15-18
  - July 29-Aug 1
  - Aug 5-8
  - Aug 12-15

Please send your email with the subject line "Pathfinders Instructor\_Your Name" to: Sarah Schuh, Education Programs Manager at [sarahschuh@kmtacorridor.org](mailto:sarahschuh@kmtacorridor.org)

Applications accepted on a rolling basis, with priority given to applications submitted by April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.