



The Darien Nature Center is located in the heart of Darien's Cherry Lawn Park. We inspire passion and respect for the natural world through nature education, hands-on experiences with nature, and environmental action and stewardship. Built by generous supporters, the Nature Center is open daily to the public, who visit our 22 species of animals and hike the trails. This summer we will be running seven weeks of on-site camp sessions that will include all the usual summer fun – outdoor exploration, nature discoveries, animal encounters, games, crafts, stories, songs, water play, science experiments, and more!

SUMMER CAMP 2026

LEAD TEACHER/NATURE EDUCATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Responsibilities:

- Work with camp counselors to prepare and lead daily activities based on provided curriculum
- Responsible for the safety of campers at all times, know and follow all safety protocols
- Gather and utilize available materials, artifacts, and live animals to enhance lessons
- Be an engaged teacher, listen to your campers, provide a supportive, and welcoming environment
- Convey love and respect for the natural world
- Be willing to get dirty, handle animals, and engage deeply in nature
- Set up and break down tents and supplies each day
- Have positive interactions with parents and staff
- Lead an orderly and enthusiastic drop-off and dismissal
- Report to the Camp Director any concerns or challenges related to your class in a timely manner
- Keep all materials organized and clean
- Provide guidance and support to your junior and senior counselors
- Review lesson plan and gather supplies prior to teaching the lesson

Requirements:

- Appreciation and respect towards animals and nature
- Enjoy spending time and interacting with young children 3 - 10 years of age
- Being able to multi-task and stay calm in stressful circumstances
- Ability to lift about 40 pounds (camp supplies, children, animal enclosures)
- Demonstrate leadership abilities and creativity
- Self-motivated, punctual, and dependable
- Complete criminal background check in accordance with State Licensing
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Provide documentation of a current health exam

Qualifications:

- Currently hold or be working towards a college degree
- Experience with young children
- Current CPR certification or willingness to acquire

Hours:

- Orientation/Training/Set up: June 17-18, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- Camp Dates: June 22 – August 7 (no camp on 7/3)
- Camp Staff Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:45 AM-2:45 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:45 AM-2:30 PM
- Pay: Starting at \$28.00 per hour.

The Darien Nature Center is an equal-opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran, marital, or disability status.



Please Return Application
by February 27, 2026

SUMMER CAMP 2026 LEAD TEACHER/COUNSELOR APPLICATION

Camp Dates: June 22 – August 7, 2026, 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM

Required Training: June 17 & 18, 2026, 9 AM to 3:30 PM

At the Darien Nature Center, we inspire passion and respect for the natural world through nature education, hands-on experiences with nature, and environmental action and stewardship.

Name_____ Gender_____ Preferred Pronouns_____

Address_____ Cell_____

City/State/Zip_____

Email Address_____ Date of Birth_____ Age_____

Are you CPR/Basic First Aid Certified?_____

Why do you want to be a nature educator?_____

EDUCATION

High School_____ Years Completed_____

College_____ Years Completed_____

Advanced_____ Years Completed_____

REFERENCES

Please list two references:

Name_____

Occupation_____

Phone_____

1._____

2._____

WORK EXPERIENCE

Describe your work experience, particularly any work with children or work related to environmental education. Please include dates:

VOLUNTEER WORK

Describe any volunteer positions you have held. Please include dates:

INTEREST & HOBBIES

Please list your hobbies, including clubs, extracurricular activities, etc.:

I certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

I understand that the position that I am applying for requires my attendance Monday through Friday from 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM each day between June 22 and August 7. On June 17 and June 18, I will attend team building and training sessions from 9 AM to 3:30PM.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

**Please email, mail or hand-deliver your application to:
The Darien Nature Center, 120 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820 or
victoria@dariennaturecenter.org.**