



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!

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## 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.

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*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.**