



JOB POSTING

Position Title: Tifft Discovery Camp Counselor
Department/Division: Tifft Nature Preserve
Schedule: Monday-Friday, June 29 – Sept 4,
plus training dates outlined below

Status: Seasonal, Temporary
Part-time/Non-exempt
Reports To: Tifft Program and Experience Mgr

Overview:

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, which comprises the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve, is a highly valued and historic organization in the Buffalo community dedicated to inspiring joyful exploration of science and nature through engaging experiences, unique resources, and exceptional staff. We believe that science creates opportunities and shapes our world. We take pride in providing an environment that inspires curiosity, self-directed learning, and fun for our guests of all ages.

Summary of Position:

The Tifft Discovery Camp Counselors provide oversight of campers enrolled in Tifft Nature Preserve's Summer Discovery Camp programs. Counselors will work collaboratively with the Camp Director, Facilitators of Learning, Volunteers, and other Counselors to provide memorable and engaging experiences and a safe and fun summer for all campers. This position requires a friendly and positive individual who is energized by working with children ages 3 – 10. Ideal candidates will possess an interest in nature and enjoy being outdoors. The ability to be adaptable, proactive, and problem-solve is also key. To maintain a safe environment, the Discovery Camp Counselors will understand and adhere to the Department of Health Children's Camp and other camp guidelines at all times.

This seasonal, temporary position will be regularly scheduled to work up to 37.5 hours per week beginning Monday, June 29, 2026 and end no later than Friday, September 4, 2026. Candidates must be available to attend mandatory trainings on Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, June 20 from 9a.m. – 4p.m. Preference will be given to candidates who are available to work all ten weeks of camp. This season's camp information can be found on Tifft's website at tifft.org/programs/discovery-camps/.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Serve as the main caretaker of their assigned Discovery Campers, including direct supervision of campers, setting up and facilitating activities indoors and outdoors, and distributing camp snacks.
- Lead campers through activities by working individually and in groups with campers in a fun and engaging way.
- Ensure all campers are present and accounted for at all times.
- Assist campers with transitions between activities/locations in a safe, quiet, and organized manner.
- Keep classrooms, other spaces, and camp materials safe, clean, and organized.
- Lead campers through daily clean-up to allow for cleaning and sanitation between camp days.
- Maintain awareness of allergies, medical conditions, and special considerations of each camper (i.e., food & environmental allergies, asthma, autism, ADHD) and always keeping campers' needs in mind.

- Serve as a point person for safety concerns and activity coordination for their designated camp group.
- Bring any and all issues, including camper conflict, health and safety issues, immediately to the attention of the co-Counselor for that group, as well as the Camp Director, and/or designated staff member, when applicable.
- Introduce, enforce, and role model all rules for expected behavior.
- Ensure group follows daily schedule for a smooth operation of the entire Discovery Camp program.
- Provide mediation between campers and resolve minor issues as they arise.
- Write and submit incident reports and work with the Camp Director to follow-up with the camper's parent/guardian when appropriate.
- Follow BSNS and Department of Health camp guidelines at all times.
- Additional duties as assigned.

Education, Experience, Skills, and Qualities Required:

- High school diploma or equivalent required.
- Experience working in a day-camp, educational setting, or supervising groups of children required.
- A degree, completed studies, or demonstrated strong interest in environmental education or life sciences, preferred.
- Desire to work with children between 3-10 years of age required. Counselors will primarily be assigned to one camp group (ages 3-5, grades 1 – 2, or grades 3-5) however, Counselors may be asked at times to supervise campers of any age and may be transferred between groups as necessary.
- Strong classroom/group management skills preferred.
- Experience as a special education teacher or aide, a plus.
- Enthusiastic, outgoing, patient, and flexible.
- Ability to deal with emergencies calmly and responsibly.
- Ability to work independently and as a team member.
- Have good character, integrity, adaptability and be a creative problem solver.
- Dress in branded, laundered, clean, or other BSNS approved clothing.

Physical Demands:

- Communicate effectively with small and large groups.
- Move frequently throughout the Preserve and within the Education Center.
- Lead groups on a variety of trail conditions for up to 3 hours at a time in a variety of weather conditions.
- Lift and transport up to 20 pounds of program materials with the assistance of a wheeled cart.

To Apply:

The hourly rate for this position is \$17.50 per hour. Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume to careers@sciencebuff.org. Include "Tiff Discovery Camp Counselor" in the subject line.

Equal Opportunity Employer:

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is an equal opportunity employer, and strongly encourages expressions of interest from people of color, individuals living with disabilities, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. All qualified applicants will be afforded equal employment opportunities without discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.