

River-Lab Erosion Trip Leader Detailed Job Description 2023

Erosion Study Trip Overview: At the Mill River, lead 4th grade students as they explore how erosion impacts the watershed. Facilitate the building of a model river and guide students as they walk around an engaging trail, discovering the patterns and habitats created by erosion, collecting data about the river, and considering ways that we can help support a healthy watershed.

Erosion Unit Objectives: Students will:

- Learn about the parts of the river basin system
- Build a model river to understand the process of erosion, sorting, and deposition
- Explore how that process creates habitats
- Observe plant diversity and its role in stabilizing the shoreline
- Sketch a favorite example of erosion
- Collect data using observational and scientific methods
- Have fun!

Trip Leader Role: This person leads one class for the duration of a 90-minute Erosion Study Trip. Each trip consists of a 45-minute full class activity, small group explorations around an easy trail loop covering 4 points of interest/activities, and a 5-minute wrap-up activity. Erosion Study Trips (currently running for 4th graders in the Fairfield Public Schools) take place at the Perry's Mill Ponds Open Space in Fairfield.

Trip Leader Responsibilities:

- Sign up for Study Trip times and dates that work for you (link will be provided)
- Attend one Trip Leader Training at Perry's Mill Ponds prior to the start of Study Trips
- Thoroughly review unit materials online, including unit concepts, content, objectives and background information
- Shadow experienced Trip Leaders to gain confidence and competency (minimum of one, more if needed)
- Arrive on-site 30 minutes prior to the scheduled Study Trip
- Greet parent guides (ideally they arrive 20 minutes early) and:
 - Have them scan the QR code and fill out the Guide Check-in Google Form
 - Explain structure and timing of model activity and small group exploration (teacher will break the class into groups of 4-6 students)

- Distribute and review the laminated guide notes for each Trail Point
- Share tips for success and logistics
- Welcome students off the bus and lead the whole class activity (45 minutes)
- Oversee departure of small groups for the trail walk
- Accompany one group around the trail (40 minutes total, 10 per Trail Point)
- Reassemble the class for a 5-minute wrap up activity and send off
- Assist the next Trip Leader by resetting any gear that may have been displaced
- Fill out the online Trip Leader Report shortly after the trip to provide feedback

Seasonal Time Commitment: This person must be available during the month of **October** (approximate time frame) **during elementary school hours** for training and on-site trip leading. **Trip leaders select the times and dates that work for them!** A master schedule is published well in advance.

Reports to: Educate Director

Qualifications:

- Availability as outlined above
- Interest in the environment, comfort with outdoor work
- Desire to work with elementary school age children
- Class management skills
- Ability to make decisions and be flexible based on a given class or situation

Compensation: \$40/Study Trip

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Updated 7/31/23