

Job Title

Part-Time Naturalist – Co-Designer & Co-Teacher (K–5)

Position Type

Part-Time: 20 - 32 hours/week

Reports to: Principal

Location: Red Barn Schoolhouse, Crescent, Iowa

Salary - \$20,000 - \$30,000

Position Overview

The Red Barn Schoolhouse, a K–5 public charter school, seeks a passionate and collaborative **Naturalist** to co-design and co-teach hands-on, inquiry-based environmental learning experiences. This educator will partner with classroom teachers to integrate nature-based education across the curriculum and cultivate curiosity, ecological literacy, and stewardship in young learners.

The ideal candidate brings a deep love of the natural world, experience working with elementary-aged children, and a commitment to collaborative teaching and curriculum design.

Key Responsibilities

Curriculum Co-Design

- Collaborate with grade-level teachers to design interdisciplinary, standards-aligned, nature-based units and projects.
- Lead coordination with a cadre of other local naturalists to design and teach integrated subjects.
- Integrate environmental science, local ecology, and outdoor learning into core subjects (science, literacy, math, social studies, and art).
- Develop place-based learning experiences grounded in the local ecosystem and community.

- Align lessons with state standards and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), as appropriate.

Co-Teaching & Instruction

- Co-teach lessons in classrooms and outdoor settings (schoolyard, local parks, field sites).
- Lead hands-on investigations, field studies, and nature journaling.
- Facilitate inquiry-based and experiential learning that supports diverse learners.
- Support classroom management and ensure student safety during outdoor learning.

Environmental Stewardship & School Culture

- Help cultivate a school-wide culture of environmental responsibility and stewardship.
- Support student-led environmental initiatives.
- Assist with planning and leading field trips and outdoor learning days.

Assessment & Reflection

- Collaborate with teachers to assess student learning and growth.
- Document student work and contribute to progress reporting.
- Reflect on and refine curriculum and instruction through ongoing collaboration.

Qualifications

Required

- Background in environmental science, ecology, biology, environmental education, or a related field.
- Experience working with children in K–5 settings (formal or informal education).

- Experience with outdoor education, field-based instruction, or nature-based programming.
- Strong collaboration and communication skills.
- Commitment to equity, inclusion, and culturally responsive teaching.

Preferred

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.
- Experience with project-based learning.
- Experience with co-teaching with classroom teachers.
- Experience in nature-focused artistic interpretation.
- Familiarity with NGSS and project-based learning.
- Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or similar outdoor safety training.
- Experience in public charter schools or mission-driven educational settings.

Desired Qualities

- Deep knowledge of local ecosystems and natural history.
- Enthusiasm, flexibility, and creativity.
- Comfort teaching outdoors in varied weather conditions.
- Strong observational skills and ability to foster student curiosity.
- Commitment to environmental justice and community engagement.

Compensation

- Salaried position with annual salary range from \$20,000- \$30,000 commensurate with experience.

- Position includes access to employer based health program including health, vision, dental and life insurance. Cost for program for staff member will be cost shared at a rate of 50% each between employer and employee.
- Professional development opportunities in nature-based education and arts integration.
- Flexible schedule aligned with the year round school calendar.

About The Red Barn Schoolhouse

The Red Barn Schoolhouse is a public charter school serving grades K–5, committed to project-based learning, environmental literacy, whole-child education, and equity-focused education. See <https://redbarnschoolhouse.org> for more information. We believe that meaningful learning happens through exploration, collaboration, and connection to the natural world.

How to Apply

Please submit the following documents to Sharon Oamek at sharono@redbarnschoolhouse.org:

- Resume
- Cover letter describing your experience with environmental education, in particular your work with children, collaborative teaching and what interests you about the position.
- 1–2 references

Applications are open until position is filled.
