

Job Announcement: Asombro Institute for Science Education

Position: Science Education Specialist

Location: Las Cruces, New Mexico

Start Date: March 2018 preferred, but flexibility is possible for successful candidate

Scope of Position: Dedicated, energetic, exceptional educator needed for a new full-time position with the Asombro Institute for Science Education in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Science Education Specialist will work with other staff members, professional scientists, teachers, and volunteers to plan and deliver Asombro's award-winning, inquiry-based science education programs in local classrooms, schoolyards, and at the organization's nature park. The successful candidate will become part of a small, committed staff in a busy nonprofit. As such, s/he will be encouraged to use unique talents to assist with many aspects of the organization's operations, including education program development, fundraising, marketing, site maintenance, and strategic planning. Must be creative, adaptable, and willing to work long hours and occasional weekends when large projects or events occur. We're looking for someone passionate about science education, innovative, willing to work very hard as a team player, and excited that no workday will ever be the same.

Background: The Asombro Institute for Science Education is a 28-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing natural science literacy through engaging, place-based education. Asombro's small, dedicated staff of five (soon six!) brings hands-on, inquiry-based science education programs to more than 22,000 K-12 students, 800 teachers, and 700 other adults annually. Most programs are inquiry-based classroom lessons, but Asombro also conducts field trips to our 935-acre Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, teacher workshops, and public events. While the topics and formats of programs vary widely, all Asombro programs are (1) inquiry-based, (2) related to current, local research through partnerships with scientists, and (3) aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and other national education standards.

Major Job Responsibilities:

- 1) Prepare for and deliver Asombro's award-winning science education programs (including classroom lessons, field trips, and the Desert Data Jam competition) to K-12 students throughout New Mexico and the El Paso, Texas region.
- 2) Help plan and deliver professional development workshops to teachers.
- 3) Develop new, inquiry-based science education programs in collaboration with other Asombro staff and scientists from the USDA's Jornada Experimental Range, New Mexico State University, and other institutions.
- 4) Lead or co-lead various long-term education projects as opportunities become available.
- 5) Write short articles and reports for publications such as Asombro's quarterly newsletter and monthly blog.
- 6) Assist with Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park site development and maintenance projects as needed.
- 7) Participate in fundraising efforts such as donor and sponsor recruitment, event planning, and grant proposal review.
- 8) Collaborate with staff and volunteers in annual strategic planning by generating creative, effective ideas for new programs, events, and fundraising opportunities.
- 9) Assist with volunteer recruitment, coordination, and appreciation activities.
- 10) Represent Asombro in collaborative projects, events, and presentations with partner groups such as Take It Outdoors, New Mexico.
- 11) Support and develop marketing efforts that highlight Asombro's activities.

Required Skills and Experience:

The successful candidate will be an excellent educator, skilled at communicating scientific practices and natural science concepts in an age-appropriate manner to K-12 students and teachers in a variety of settings. S/he must be

internally motivated and able to work independently on assigned tasks as well as to work as part of a diverse team with a spirit of collaboration and cooperation. Other requirements include:

- A Bachelor's degree in natural science or related field (graduate degree is a plus)
- 2+ years experience teaching natural science concepts using hands-on, inquiry-based methods to K-12 students and teachers (experience with middle school students is a plus)
- Comfortable teaching and working outdoors
- Extremely well organized, self motivated, and capable of juggling multiple projects and tasks
- Ability to complete projects under deadlines
- Excellent public speaking skills
- Ability to write well for a variety of audiences
- Exemplary collaboration skills
- Working knowledge of common software such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint (experience with Pages and other Apple software a plus)
- Ability to carry 30+ pounds
- Valid U.S. driver's license
- Must pass a background check

Other desirable qualifications:

- Spanish fluency
- Knowledge of desert ecology
- Familiarity with education standards such as Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards
- Experience developing creative science lessons
- Marketing experience
- Social media experience
- Experience with website development
- Prior experience with volunteer recruitment and/or management
- Graphic design skills
- Experience with light tools for construction and site maintenance projects

Terms: This position is fully funded for one year with a high probability of extension contingent on performance and funding. The Asombro Institute for Science Education is an equal opportunity employer.

Salary: \$34,000

Benefits: 12 paid holidays and 22 days (176 hours) of flexible, paid time off, which includes vacation and sick leave (increasing to 27 days after five years of service).

Application Deadline: Applicants are encouraged to apply by January 31, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

To Apply: Submit a cover letter, resume, contact information for three references, and unofficial college transcripts. Please combine cover letter, resume, and reference information into a single Pages, Word, or PDF document (transcripts may be a separate file). Applications must include all of the components listed above to be considered.

Send application package to:

rink@asombro.org (Please write "Science Education Specialist" in the subject line.)