



**Position Title:** Environmental Educator

**Classification:** Salaried, Exempt

**Reports to:** Director of Education

**Location:** Hilton Head Island, SC

### **Position Overview**

The Environmental Educator inspires visitors of all ages to care for the Lowcountry through dynamic, engaging, and mission-driven programs. This adaptable and energetic professional works both independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced environment to deliver high-quality educational experiences that advance the Museum's mission.

This is an active, hands-on role that includes teaching multiple programs per day, working outdoors in varying weather conditions, and supporting the care of the Museum's living collections. The position is best suited for a self-starter who thrives in full, productive days and takes pride in maintaining high standards even during busy seasons.

Ideal candidates are early- to mid-career educators eager to grow professionally, gain broad hands-on experience, and take ownership of meaningful work. The Environmental Educator plays a visible and impactful role in daily operations and has the opportunity to develop skills in program design, public speaking, animal care, and community engagement.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, biology, education, natural history.
- At least two years of experience in education in museums, zoos, nature centers, outdoor recreation programs, schools, or camps.
- Knowledge of biology, ecology, coastal ecosystems, or natural history.
- Experience handling and caring for live animals, including reptiles and amphibians.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organizational and time-management skills.
- Demonstrated reliability, professionalism, and strong follow-through.
- Ability to sustain enthusiasm and engagement throughout physically and mentally active workdays.
- Willingness to take initiative and contribute wherever needed to support team success.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Experience with informal or inquiry-based education methods.
- Familiarity with South Carolina coastal environments and Lowcountry history.
- First Aid/CPR certification (or willingness to obtain upon hire).

## Key Responsibilities

- Lead school programs and public programs (families, individuals, adults, clubs, camps, etc.), including preparation, instruction, and cleanup.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate age-appropriate, engaging educational activities and presentations.
- Prepare thoroughly for all programs to ensure high-quality visitor experiences.
- Care for animals used in educational programming, including habitat maintenance, tank cleaning, feeding, health observation, and maintaining clean and organized lab and children's areas.
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, organization, and animal welfare at all times.
- Help maintain outdoor interpretive areas (e.g., gardens, ponds, trails) and assist, as needed, with outdoor docent-led programs such as Blue Crab Discovery.
- Assist with special events, seasonal programming, and community outreach initiatives.
- Model and enforce safety protocols for visitors, volunteers, and staff.
- Contribute positively to a team culture aligned with the Museum's mission and values.

## Work Environment

Located on Hilton Head Island, the Coastal Discovery Museum offers a unique setting where natural beauty blends with cultural and educational exploration. The Museum fosters a collaborative workplace culture united by its mission to "inspire people to care for the Lowcountry." Staff work together professionally and respectfully, creating a welcoming environment for visitors, colleagues, and volunteers alike.

## The position requires:

- Traversing uneven terrain on a 70-acre property.
- Lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds.
- Working outdoors for extended periods in heat, humidity, and varying weather conditions.
- Maintaining energy and engagement while managing active groups of students and adults.
- Observing and proactively addressing safety and facility needs.
- Working independently after routine training.
- Occasional evening and weekend work to accommodate programming schedules.

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

## Salary and Benefits

- Starting salary: \$40,000–\$42,000, commensurate with experience.
- After successful completion of the first year, employees are eligible for additional merit-based compensation.
- In the past year, average increases across staff included approximately:
  - 5% annual salary raise
  - 5% salary equivalent performance bonus
  - 5% profit-sharing contribution to 401(k)
- Health insurance (HDHP): Employee premiums fully paid by the museum in addition to a \$1,600 annual deposit into a Health Savings Account. Dependents may be added at the employee's expense.

- 401(k): After one year of continuous employment, the museum matches up to 4% of salary.
- Paid time off and holidays, including your birthday, in accordance with museum policy.
- The Museum has a strong track record of recognizing high performance and supporting long-term employee growth.
- Ongoing professional development opportunities to enhance knowledge and skills related to the position.

### **How to Apply**

Email your resume, three references, and a cover letter detailing your experience and educational philosophy and why this type of active, hands-on, mission-driven work appeals to you to [dbrut@coastaldiscovery.org](mailto:dbrut@coastaldiscovery.org). Please include "Environmental Educator" in the subject line.

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Expected start date is March/April 2026.

The Coastal Discovery Museum is an equal-opportunity employer and values diversity in our workplace. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds to apply.