

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Environmental Education — Learning by Doing

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Education Department provides field experiences, teacher training, and restoration and schoolyard habitat projects to students and teachers throughout the watershed. These programs are designed to help students and teachers develop environmental sensitivity and become active, lifelong stewards of the Bay and its rivers and streams. CBF's education programs reflect a simple, but solid premise: *To care for the Bay, you must love it. To love it, you must know it. To know it, you must experience it.*

Participants in CBF's education programs get their hands dirty and their feet wet as they work together to identify aquatic animals and plants, perform water quality tests, analyze sediment samples, and take part in projects like oyster gardening, wetland restoration, and stream clean-ups. The on-the-water and in-the-field focus of CBF's education programs engages students in a way that no classroom experience can match.

CBF's Education Department employs approximately 55 staff members who work on the water, in the classroom, and at CBF offices. Most education staff are college graduates who hold degrees in the disciplines of history, English, the arts, science or education. While all of our educators bring unique life experiences to their jobs, CBF is particularly lucky to have several former watermen from the communities of Smith and Tangier Island on staff.

All of CBF's educators share one passion: environmental education.

Other qualifications include:

Educators (Assistant Program Managers and Program Managers)

- Strong belief in experiential and environmental education
- Experience teaching (classroom, camp, other environmental education center)
- Knowledge of Chesapeake Bay issues (or understanding of estuarine ecology)
- Love of the outdoors and comfort in all sorts of weather!
- Fun spirit and attitude
- Ability to predict and solve problems (behavior problems in students, pending weather changes, problems with gear, boats, vehicles)
- Enthusiasm for students of all ages
- Ability to teach to all learning styles and a diverse audience that changes almost daily
- Strong communication skills (with peers, colleagues, teachers, students and the public)
- Comfort and confidence in presenting to varied audiences
- Team player
- Patient
- Sense of humor (especially late at night and early in the morning!)
- Ability to adapt to new situations
- Flexibility
- Sound judgment

While CBF does not look to hire educators with specific academic backgrounds, interested candidates should have a strong understanding of and belief in the value of CBF's approach to environmental education. All programs emphasize ecology but also cover history, art, math, and English, reflecting an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning.

Current members of the Education Department have degrees in such diverse disciplines as environmental science, biology, history, economics, English, psychology, geography, education, and French.

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Some of our staff come to CBF directly from college, some spent time as classrooms teachers, and others have extensive experience as summer camp counselors and environmental educators.

For more information on job opportunities with CBF's education programs, contact Laura Burrell Baxter, Education Senior Manager lbbaxter@cbf.org



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Save the Bay