The Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to inspire people to care for the environment by providing experiences that lead them to understand their connection to the natural world.

Because we value the strength diversity brings to the workplace, the Kalamazoo Nature Center is committed to the recruitment, retention, and development of a workforce that reflects the society in which we live. We encourage applications from candidates representing diverse backgrounds.

Summary:
The Kalamazoo Nature Center Camp program aims to provide safe experiences that allow all children to grow into active and respectful community members through exploration of the natural world. The Outdoor Skills Educator is responsible for leading outdoor recreation & adventure activities and supervising overnight campout events. Seeking individuals who are passionate about giving kids and adults influential outdoor experiences, truly enjoys playing outside and encourages others to play with them. An individual who is comfortable leading campers in camping, backpacking, and other related activities. The Outdoor Adventure Educator reports to the Camp Director.

What we ask of our Outdoor Adventure Educators:
- Teach, guide and supervise day and travel campers of all abilities, grades 4-12.
- Support camps adventure groups and educators.
- Prepare and execute quality outdoor programs including but not limited to; environmental science, backpacking, archery, canoeing, climbing, team-building, zip line and low ropes programs.
- Manage risk, teach technical skills, plan and lead overnight campouts and travel trips (including Trek weeks).
- Facilitate large groups and be comfortable leading all day hikes.
- Supervise volunteers.
- Maintain and repair all adventure gear and tools, when needed.
- Support with lifeguard duties (training can be arranged).
- Support with bus route supervision.
- Other duties as assigned by supervisor.

What we ask of all Camp Staff:
- Provide an example of a model counselor on a consistent basis.
- Help all to be included and feel accepted by encouraging participation of all.
- Respect the diversity of culture and beliefs of our campers and fellow staff.
Communicate consistently with supervisors about group life and camper situations
Observe camper behavior, evaluate its appropriateness, and enforce and implement appropriate behavior management techniques;
Ensure and maintain the health and safety of camp participants and staff.
Work well under pressure and stay calm. Be confident and make positive decisions.
Responsible for the care of camps program equipment and facilities;
Attend pre-camp training and in-service trainings during camp.
Be versed in and demonstrate KNC’s policy and customer standards at all times.
Maintain a flexible work schedule, which may include overnights and bus route supervision.

Requirements:
Must be at least 21 years of age or older with a valid driver’s license and good driving record.
Must be able to supervise children 40 hours a week with periods of overnight duties.
Must be able to negotiate hilly terrain, rustic trails, and walk several miles per day and possess the stamina to carry out camp programs in hot and humid Michigan climate over an extended period of time.
Must possess visual and auditory ability to identify and respond to environmental and other hazards related to camp activity.
Must have a commitment to uphold a strong environmental ethic.
Must possess the ability to communicate and work with groups of all ages and skill levels in order to provide necessary instruction to campers.
Preference will be given to those who have experience working with children.
Must have a strong work ethic and be able to commit to the 10 week camp schedule.
Must be able to commit to additional training days in May (specific dates TBD).
Applicants must be able to commit to the entire camp schedule.
First-aid training and CPR certification required (can be arranged). WFR preferred.

Paid staff training: June 8 through 12 including two overnight campouts and Open House on June 13.
Camp sessions: June 15 through August 14; some evenings/overnights may be required. There will be no camp June 29 through July 3 in observance of Independence Day. Staff receive a 20% discount in the Expedition Shop. Summer T-shirts are provided.

Apply online at naturecenter.org/Camp/CampEmployment
Questions? Contact Tanequa Hampton, Camp Director at thampton@naturecenter.org

The Kalamazoo Nature Center is an equal opportunity organization that will not discriminate in its programs or hiring practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, veteran status, height, weight, sexual orientation or gender identity, marital status, or political affiliation