



POSITION: Education Specialist for the Teacher Learning Center

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) welcomes your application as an inspiring and dynamic educational leader to assume the role of Education Specialist for a new Teacher Education Center dedicated to transformative teaching and learning.

Our ideal candidate is an exceptional educator who will bring deep experience and an innovative approach to the formation, growth and sustainability of outdoor experiential education programs at BRIT.

SUZY PEACOCK CENTER FOR OUTDOOR INQUIRY

The Suzy Peacock Center for Outdoor Inquiry builds upon the collaboration of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, REAL School Gardens and BRIT which has evolved into a strong educational movement that supports children and their teachers who use natural environments to enhance learning by connecting children to nature. An endowed gift to honor the work of Suzy Peacock, the founder of the local school garden movement, allows BRIT to build upon and expand this foundational process connecting people to place in a way that embraces the core values centered in community, relationships, and reflective practice.

The initial focus for the Center will be

- to deliver programs that model and promote best practices in outdoor experiential education
- to grow and inspire a learning community around outdoor experiential educators
- to become a source of inspiration and support for exceptional educators who utilize outdoor classrooms, nature and urban environments for learning

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Education Specialist will:

- ❖ Design, implement, promote and assess a year-long series of professional development for elementary school teachers in the DFW area focusing on place-based, outdoor experiential education strategies, science content, teacher efficacy, and community-based service learning.
- ❖ Coordinate the implementation and promotion of program evaluation through the annual Science Teacher Award
- ❖ Develop and implement quarterly appreciation programs and services for teachers.
- ❖ Design content for on-line resources for teachers and school administrators pertaining to science content, place-based, outdoor experiential education strategies, teacher efficacy, and community-based service learning.
- ❖ Assist in the development, implementation, and promotion of BRIT programs and fee-based resources, i.e., curriculum, classroom kits.
- ❖ Assist the Director in developing a 3-year community based research program at a local school.
- ❖ Foster relationships with new and existing partnerships to support program objectives.
- ❖ Represent the Center to school leadership, educators, partner organizations and the general public.

- ❖ Contribute to the Center's publications and website content as well as speak at public events.
- ❖ Participate in personal professional development through local, regional, and/or national organizations.
- ❖ Other duties as assigned.

CORE AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Required Qualifications include the following:

- Bachelors degree in education, ecology, botany, and/or environmental or other natural sciences
- Self-motivated professional with a background in science – environmental, life or earth sciences.
- A minimum of two years as a K-12 science teacher
- Knowledge of best practices and value of K-12 experiential education in nature.
- Experience implementing experiential education and/or place-based education strategies
- Demonstrated experience in program or event planning, i.e., developing, promoting, implementing, and assessing programs and/or services.
- Experience in facilitating professional development (informal or formal) for educators and/or adults; respectfully mentoring and coaching in ways that honor their work and dedication.
- Proven aptitude for developing strong relationships, preferably within education – locally, regionally and/or nationally.
- A spirit of invitation and hospitality and a clear choice to put relationships first, as well as an alignment with the core values of respectful listening, intentional time for reflection and thoughtful action informed by experience.
- Exceptional analytical, writing, and speaking skills.
- Demonstrated proficiency in Microsoft Office essential.
- Experience and desire to work in a highly collaborative organization.
- Physical ability to work outdoors throughout the year on uneven ground and to occasionally lift and/or move items up to ten pounds.
- Ability and willingness to occasionally work on weekends or evenings and travel overnight.

Preferred Qualifications include the following:

- Masters degree in environmental science, botany, ecology, natural history, geology, or education.
- Five Years experience as a K-12 teacher or administrator.
- Professional experience in the public K-12 school system, preferable in the DFW area.
- Experience in authoring and maintaining website content.
- Facilitation of and/or participation in on-line discussion groups; for example, *Blackboard*.
- Demonstrated skills in operating within budget parameters.
- Knowledge, appreciation for, and experience in writing and assessing learning outcomes.
- Public speaking experience.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Opened in 1991, BRIT is a 501(c)(3) organization recognized around the world for its accessible botanical resources. BRIT's exploration of the natural world through field study, scientific research, botanical analysis, and educational programs places it in the forefront of conservation and preservation of Earth's finite resources. At its Fort Worth headquarters, BRIT's staff present workshops and educational programs and provides consultation to research scientists, students, teachers, artists, plant enthusiasts, vineyard owners, ranchers, veterinarians, farmers, homeowners, gardeners, lawyers, physicians, businesses, government agencies, museums, schools, arboreta, hospitals, and poison control centers. With a collection of approximately one million dried plant specimens representing most of the Earth's plant families, BRIT has one of the largest herbaria in the United States. It has the largest independent herbarium in the Southwest and one of the world's best collections of Texas plant specimens. Its botanical library houses approximately 100,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and journals from 100 countries. BRIT's primary facility is in downtown Fort Worth in a restored historic warehouse but will be moving to a new LEED Gold facility, opening adjacent to the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens in 2011.

This position reports to BRIT's Director of the Teacher Learning Center.

TO APPLY

This full-time, year-round job offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience. A benefit package includes health and dental insurance, retirement, and paid time off. Position will remain open until filled.

To apply, send a cover letter, current resume, salary requirements and a list of 4 or more professional references to jjones@brit.org or mail to Judy Jones, 500 E. 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

In your cover letter, please describe your philosophy of education, your experience with program development, your work with educators, and your proven ability to develop partnerships.

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas is committed to diversity, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to their race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, ability, veteran status, and sexual orientation.

Information about BRIT can be accessed at www.brit.org.