



Position: Community Outdoor School Volunteer

Organization: the p.i.n.e. project

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Start date: October 2018

Duration: Until June 2019

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until positions have been filled.

About the p.i.n.e. project:

The p.i.n.e. project is a registered charity created to celebrate the wonders of the natural world in the urban jungle. Our mission is to inspire healthy, lifelong connections between people and nature through outdoor-based learning and play. During the summer months, the p.i.n.e. project runs highly sought-after day camps at two locations in Toronto, and an overnight camp in Haliburton. During the Community Outdoor School year (October – June), we run programs for youth, adults, and families in the Toronto area. Please visit our website for more information at pineproject.org

Position summary:

The p.i.n.e. project is seeking Volunteer Assistants for our Community Outdoor School programs. This position is ideal for those looking to build experience working with kids, learn about nature and survival, and be mentored by experienced outdoor educators, while supporting the delivery of our summer programs.

You will receive excellent training in nature connection and inquiry-based learning from our highly-skilled staff. Throughout the year, you'll have the opportunity to get to know the park's incredible ecosystem, gain survival skills to keep you alive and thriving in the wilderness, and learn to pass on your skills and knowledge to participants in inspiring ways, using our highly effective mentoring methodology. In the words of a past staff member:

"Working at the p.i.n.e. project brought about a real turning point in my teaching career which I will celebrate the rest of my life. Looking to learn how to better help children become resilient, I joined the p.i.n.e. project. Working alongside awesome mentors I developed my own wilderness survival skills - fire making, foraging, cooking, crafts, tracking, shelter making - to name just a few. And my experience learning a new way to teach and mentor has been invaluable."

- Miriam Snell

Duties and responsibilities:

- Support creating learning and recreational experiences with participants (and sometimes their parents) ages 0-15 in nature;
- Support groups of up to 12 participants with two instructors;
- Support development of program culture by participating in skits, songs, and games;
- Support and participate in program planning, development, and prep/debrief meetings;
- Arrive on time for all programs and participate in each team planning and debrief meeting;
- Act in the best interest of all participants and staff in attendance;
- Familiarize yourself with and abide by all policies and procedures including, but not limited to, the staff handbook and emergency plans;
- Commit to developing naturalist knowledge, wilderness skills, and personal connection to nature;
- Attend staff training as required;
- Be prepared to work outdoors in all weather conditions

Qualifications and requirements:

Volunteers should:

- Be enthusiastic, outgoing, and flexible
- Have experience working with children
- Be able and willing to work as part of a team
- Have good communication, time management, and organizational skills
- Identify with p.i.n.e.'s mission statement and core values
- Have a desire to further their own naturalist/wilderness skills, mentoring techniques, and/or nature connection through professional development opportunities with p.i.n.e. staff members

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in the following areas:

- Outdoor and environmental education
- Naturalist experience and knowledge
- Survival skills, wilderness experience

Application procedure:

Please submit a resume and cover letter in a single PDF to: lee@pineproject.org using the subject line: COS Volunteer: [Your Name] - [Desired Position]".

Application deadline – Applications will be received on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

Only successful candidates will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls please.

The p.i.n.e. project is committed to creating resilient, diverse and vibrant communities. We recognize people from diverse professional, cultural and educational backgrounds. As such, applicants who do not have all of the stated skills and feel they would make a positive contribution to the community are encouraged to apply. Please address these differences in the cover letter.