Wabanaki Youth & Community Engagement Coordinator (Part Time)

Location: Aroostook County - Mi'kmaq Nation and Houlton Band of Maliseet communities
Position Type: Part-time, Nonexempt
Reports to: WaYS Director
Hours: 20 hours per week; occasional evening and weekend programming required
Compensation: $25.00 hourly
Travel: Regular travel within Aroostook County and Wabanaki territories is required; mileage reimbursement provided in accordance with WaYS policy

Organizational Overview

Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) uplifts the next generation of Wabanaki leaders through Indigenous knowledge, land-based education, mentorship, science, and community-rooted programming.

Through hands-on experiences on Wabanaki homelands and beyond, WaYS supports youth in reclaiming and carrying forward cultural and ecological knowledge, strengthening relationships with the land and waters, developing leadership skills, and exploring pathways into natural resource management, conservation, forestry, environmental science, and related fields.

Position Summary

WaYS is seeking a community-centered Wabanaki Youth & Community Engagement Coordinator to strengthen relationships, expand youth opportunities, and support culturally grounded, land-based programming in Aroostook County, with a particular focus on Mi'kmaq Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

The coordinator will work in partnership with youth, families, Cultural Knowledge Sharers, Elders, tribal programs, natural resource professionals, educators, and the WaYS team to coordinate culturally grounded and land-based learning opportunities.

The coordinator will help ensure that WaYS programming respects community protocols, tribal sovereignty, and the distinct knowledge, priorities, and relationships of the communities we serve. This position serves as an important bridge between Wabanaki youth, communities, cultural knowledge, science, and educational and career opportunities while supporting the next generation of Wabanaki leaders and land stewards.

Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate cultural and land-based components of WaYS programming, including internships, seasonal gatherings, after school programs, and other land-based learning experiences.
- Develop and maintain respectful, reciprocal relationships with Mi'kmaq Nation and Maliseet communities, Cultural Knowledge Sharers, Elders, youth, families, tribal programs, and community partners.
- Work with communities to identify appropriate Cultural Knowledge Sharers and support their participation in WaYS programming.
- Coordinate honoraria, travel, scheduling, supplies, and other logistical needs for Cultural Knowledge Sharers and program participants.
- Listen to and learn from youth, families, and community partners to help ensure WaYS programming reflects community-identified interests, needs, and priorities.
- Support youth recruitment, engagement, and mentoring in coordination with tribal education programs, schools, families, and community organizations.
- Help connect youth with internships, mentorships, educational opportunities, and career pathways related to natural resources, conservation, science, culture, and land stewardship.
- Support seasonal camps, workshops, community events, and other WaYS programming throughout Aroostook County.
- Assist with program documentation, evaluation, storytelling, and grant reporting while respecting cultural knowledge, community consent, and appropriate protocols for sharing information.
- Represent WaYS at community meetings, events, gatherings, and partner activities as appropriate.
- Communicate regularly with the WaYS team regarding programming, community priorities, emerging opportunities, and participant needs.
- Assist with other WaYS programming and organizational activities as needed.

Qualifications

- Strong connection to and understanding of Wabanaki communities, cultures, values, and lifeways.
- Demonstrated experience working with Wabanaki youth, families, and/or tribal communities.
- Understanding of the importance of cultural protocols, tribal sovereignty, community consent, and appropriate stewardship of Indigenous knowledge.

- Strong organizational, communication, and program coordination skills.
- Ability to work independently while remaining connected to a collaborative WaYS team.
- Experience supporting youth programming, community-based programming, cultural programming, education, or related work.
- Ability and willingness to travel throughout Aroostook County and other Wabanaki territories as needed.
- Availability for occasional evening, weekend, and seasonal programming.
- Basic proficiency with Microsoft applications, Zoom, shared calendars, email, and other communication tools.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation, or the ability to meet the travel requirements of the position.

Preferred Qualifications

- Existing relationships within Mi'kmaq Nation and/or Maliseet communities.
- Knowledge of or experience with Wabanaki language, cultural practices, and community-based learning.
- Experience with land-based education, Indigenous science, Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous science, or culturally grounded youth programming.
- Background or experience in natural resources, environmental science, forestry, conservation, education, youth development, or a related field.
- Experience coordinating programs, workshops, gatherings, or community events.

What We Value

WaYS recognizes that knowledge and experience are gained in many ways. Formal education is only one pathway. We also value lived experience, cultural knowledge, community relationships, mentorship, land-based learning, professional experience, and other forms of knowledge and leadership.

To Apply

Please submit a resume and cover letter describing your interest in the position, relevant experience, and connection to Wabanaki communities to **candi.ewer@penobscotnation.org.** Please include Wabanaki Youth & Community Engagement Coordinator (Aroostook) in the subject line.

Application Deadline: 4:00 PM, September 25, 2026

WaYS is committed to creating an inclusive and culturally grounded workplace that honors Wabanaki knowledge, relationships, communities, and Wabanaki sovereignty.