

Employer: Rock Tree Sky rocktreesky.org

Job Title: Teacher/Mentor

Status: Full Time - 7.5 hrs/day

Contract period: Mid-August 2024 - Mid-June 2025, inclusive of 20 days paid vacation

Compensation: \$36/hr plus 80% coverage on health care benefits

Location: Ojai, CA 93023

To Apply: Send resume and cover letter to jim@rocktreesky.org

Program Description:

Rock Tree Sky is a mixed age, interest-driven, and relationship-based learning community. The children (aged 3-18) enrolled at RTS are supported in their freedom to tinker, create, play, explore, and engage in a variety of offerings that span a wide array of subject matter.

Rock Tree Sky was founded on the following principles:

Developmental Relationships:

- **Expression of Care:** We strive to ensure every learner feels valued and supported, affirming their worth beyond their achievements.
- **Challenging Growth:** At RTS, we encourage learners to stretch beyond their comfort zones, fostering resilience and a growth mindset.
- **Providing Support:** We offer guidance and support, helping learners navigate challenges and develop problem-solving skills.
- **Sharing Power:** Recognizing the importance of student voice, we involve learners in decisions that affect their education, promoting a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- **Expanding Possibilities:** By exposing learners to new ideas and opportunities, we aim to inspire and broaden their horizons.

Community Collaboration

We aim to create a safe space for intergenerational learning between folks of diverse backgrounds, through the sharing of our skills, passions, and resources, often in service of others. We actively seek to remove the barriers to exploration and creative, self expression, whether those are unmanageable shoelaces or systemic inequity. Adults model compassionate communication, self-regulation, and emotional intelligence.

Learner agency

Learners have the right to choose their activities, define their goals, and assess their progress. Children's voices are heard. Learners play a role in creating the agreements and practices of the RTS culture. The activities of our campus are largely learner-driven.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Rock Tree Sky is to cultivate an inclusive learning community where children and adults develop their whole self, through directing their learning in relationship with others.

Job Brief:

Rock Tree Sky is seeking an experienced mentor or teacher that is passionate about supporting the positive development of children. Mentors are motivated to be truly present with youth and tuned into the unique needs of individuals. Mentors exemplify what it is to be a life-long learner; they model inquisitiveness and information seeking, work to increase their cultural competence, engage in projects or creative endeavors they can share with children, collaborate with others, and share wisdom gained from experience.

Qualities Desired:

- Love of children
- Experience working with children (positions open for mentors experienced with either young children - ages 5-7 or children 8-12)
- Competency with facilitating conflict resolution.
- A willingness to question culturally and personally held beliefs that may contribute to segregation and oppression of all kinds.
- Bi-lingual, bi-cultural skills and knowledge.
- Awareness of the needs of the diverse communities we serve and in which we are located, and how to foster an inclusive, equitable learning environment.
- Compassionate awareness of the variety of unique needs different learners present.
- Uphold and be a model of our community agreements (take care of yourself, take care of each other, take care of the space) and support learners in doing the same.
- Interest and experience with outdoor education, the arts, or other personal creative pursuit.
- Active interest in seeking information relevant to learner-centered education, self-directed education, human development, communication (ie. read blog posts, listen to podcasts, read relevant literature). In other words, maintain a practice of continuous inquiry with regards to the work we are engaged in.

Job Responsibilities:

- Check in with and support the well-being of learners. This includes continual education and reflection through observation and other modes of education on the particular needs of your assigned age group. I.e. discuss what you observe in this age group with mentors to gain insights; read books, articles, etc. particularly focused on this age group.
- Offer listening and mediation when conflicts between learners arise. Be able to facilitate conflict resolution following RTS's Conflict Resolution Protocol. (This may mean pausing an activity to lend presence to the challenging event and/or seeking help from other mentors). Also, practice the community's conflict resolution protocol when needed in your own conflicts with learners and or other adults
- Share ideas, curiosities, and projects that you are enthusiastic about with learners and community members, both modeling your own ongoing learning/curiosity and being responsive to the interests/curiosities/cultures of children. Present these in a way that is accessible, developmentally appropriate, and culturally relevant for all children in your assigned age range.

- Co-facilitate morning and afternoon meetings with learners. Encourage and invite the practice of intention setting and reflecting.
- Communicate with parents/families (emails, phone calls, conferences. As well as striving for in-person connecting during pick-up/drop off times and community bonding).
- Presence at RTS community connection events.
- Facilitate one parent discussion group per year.
- Collect and share observations of children's growth and learning via our database system.
- Care for the physical space of your assignment, as well as other rooms and the outdoor space.
- Prepare for and offer both intentional, pre planned learning opportunities/provocations as well as supporting emergent, learner-driven learning opportunities. Keep your space dynamic and responsive to young people's needs.
- Document offerings on our digital platform and in the physical space to be sure learners and families are aware of what is on offer.
- Participate in family work days, staff in-service days, staff meetings. Be willing to collaborate with the team on issues that impact the learning community.