



Director of Coastal Resiliency Job Description

Reports to: SoundWaters VP Programs
Exempt: Full time
Date created: July 2023

Job Summary

SoundWaters, a nonprofit environmental education organization based in Stamford, CT, is accepting applications for Director of Coastal Resiliency. Founded in 1989, SoundWaters works towards a sustainable environment where people share a passion for Long Island Sound, students succeed, and our community thrives.

Annually, SoundWaters partners with schools to amplify science learning through investigation of Long Island Sound aboard our three-masted Schooner, at our Coastal Education Center, our Harbor Center and on and along the coast. We provide high-level study opportunities, aboard our research vessel and in our labs, where interns gain expertise through rigorous, hands-on research to give local high school students a path towards college success. We engage the public to create sustainable practices through outreach and we develop youth through life skills and job training opportunities.

Reporting to the SoundWaters Vice-President of Programs, the Director of Coastal Resiliency is a key leadership role at SoundWaters and is responsible for leading and creating a full range of coastal resiliency projects that range from kelp farming to habitat restoration; from water quality testing to coastal clean ups; from oyster seeding to climate science study. While the portfolio of projects is broad and changing, the goals of all projects are focused and clear. Coastal resiliency projects at SoundWaters each meet the three goals of 1) improving the Sound, 2) engaging the public and 3) providing opportunities for student learning.

Responsibilities

The Director of Coastal Resiliency will:

- Develop, pilot, and sustain programs that improve the Sound, engage the public and provide opportunities for high-level student learning. Working in concert with colleagues, the Director of Coastal Resiliency will expand SoundWaters capacity to impact the local environment and build our voice as a regional organization.
- Supervise, and mentor the staff, interns and students involved in Coastal Resource projects.
- Coordinate and lead the governmental permitting process for Coastal Resource projects.
- Engage with SoundWaters Research Intensive students in semester-long research projects.
- Coordinate with SoundWaters program staff to ensure program content is current and participate in staff training.
- Coordinate with SoundWaters development and curricula staff to plan and manage programming and events connected to coastal resources.
- Partner with the Program Committee to design, promote and deliver public programs for adults that promote SoundWaters unique voice.
- Research and apply for long term project support for coastal programs.
- Report regularly on the progress of the existing and planned projects
- Maintain highest possible standards of safety in all work on land and on the water.
- Fiscal management - Participate in the annual budget process; monitor program finances.

Required

- Commitment to SoundWaters belief that our community is stronger when we are connected to and learning from the Sound.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant and progressive experience in mission-based conservation programs or organizations.
- A comprehensive understanding of coastal resiliency and marine conservation issues. Specific knowledge of issues relating to Long Island Sound is helpful.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills as well as strong interpersonal skills to share SoundWaters projects and vision.
- Research and field skills to identify, develop and sustain applied resiliency projects
- Leadership skills and the ability to be a positive mentor for young people.
- An attitude of creativity, innovation, confidence and entrepreneurship
- Internally motivated and capable of working independently.
- Comfortable working in the outdoors in a variety of weather conditions.
- A valid driver's license in good standing.

Preferred

- Strong small boating handling skills and Safe Boating certificate

EDUCATION

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent, with advanced degree preferred, in environmental (preferably marine or climate-related) science.

SUPERVISES OTHERS

Yes.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Must be willing to use personal vehicle for local travel with reimbursement.

Salary

- \$53,000 - \$57,000 annually, commensurate with experience. Excellent health care benefits and 403(b) retirement savings plan are available.

Please send cover letter and resume to: Connie Alvarado: CAvarado@soundwaters.org

SoundWaters does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.