



Education Officer

Job Specification

1. Introduction

The River Dee rises in the Cairngorm Mountains and flows 80 miles to the city of Aberdeen. The Dee is one of the four principal salmon rivers in Scotland and is internationally famous for the fishing that this species supports. The Atlantic salmon is one of the species for which the River Dee has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation.

The River Dee Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee which provides scientific services for the fisheries, conservation, and education to the wider community throughout the Dee catchment. The Trust has been recognised as being at the forefront of fisheries management in Scotland with an established track record in innovative conservation and restoration programmes. The Trust works closely with its sister organisation the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board.

2. Reporting

The Education Officer will report to the Fisheries Protection Manager, who in turn reports to the River Director.

3. Overall Responsibility

The Education Officer will increase awareness, enthusiasm for and understanding of our rivers in Deeside and Aberdeen City. Working with schools and community groups, young people especially will be supported to undertake outdoor learning in a safe and fun manner and experience the river on their doorstep. The role will involve -

1. Encouraging and educating young people to be inspired by the natural environment, through teaching about the river, its management and nature conservation, with a focus on STEM subjects;
2. Promoting better use of the river for outdoor recreation and fishing.
3. Raising funds to sustain the educational work.
4. Delivering education to people of all ages to further the aims of the Trust.

4. Key Duties

- Develop and promote educational material for use in schools and advance opportunities for other organisations and groups to deliver education visits to young people.
- Deliver an education package for primary and secondary school groups that provides an understanding of the river and natural environment and fits with the curriculum for excellence.
- Develop and fund further educational work through fundraising and obtaining grants.
- Communicate the work of the Trust through social media, websites and press.
- Promote and report on work to funders.
- Provide training opportunities for teachers to build STEM skills in the context of the River Education Programme.
- Promote the Trust and River at events and to community groups.
- Carry out other duties for the Trust as required.

5. Skills and Background

The postholder will be enthusiastic for outdoor learning and be a great communicator, able to use multi-media and capable of seeking funding opportunities. They will have a strong understanding of the natural environment and rivers, preferably backed up by study in a relevant discipline. However, they do not require specific formal qualifications as knowledge, experience, personality and approach to the role are more important. They will be highly motivated and organised to work with many schools and community groups to deliver indoor and outdoor learning visits. They will be able to work independently and within the team at the River Office. They will enjoy liaising with the general public and young people.

The following qualities are essential:

- Demonstrated ability to deliver outdoor education safely and to young people especially.
- Excellent communication skills, including social media, written and oral.
- Substantial experience of presenting or teaching to groups or classes, including STEM subjects.
- Strong understanding of the natural environment, rivers and environmental issues.
- Understanding of how to identify appropriate funding sources and prepare funding applications.
- An ability to plan, organise and deliver own work, projects and events.
- Experience with risk assessments.
- Ability to work well independently and collaboratively in a small team environment.
- Experience in production of educational materials.
- A demonstrated ability to engage with educational organisations, members of the public and liaise with a wide range of stakeholders, including young people and community groups.
- Competency in Microsoft Office packages.
- A full driving licence.

The following qualities are desirable:

- Understanding of the Curriculum for Excellence and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- Knowledge and familiarity with the freshwater and riverside environments of the River Dee.
- Experience of working with teachers or other educational leaders and supporting training needs.
- Fundraising for charities.
- Demonstrated continual professional development.

6. Hours and Place of Work

The postholder will work a 40-hour week. This will include periods of work out with normal office hours, including weekends or evenings. The main place of work will be the River Office at Dinnet, Aberdeenshire. The successful candidate will be required to travel within the catchment to carry out their duties and outdoor working will be part of the principle task of delivering education.

7. Remuneration and Benefits

The post will attract a salary in the region of £23,000-25,000. Following three months employment, a pension scheme will be offered. A vehicle will be provided for work duties.



8. Terms of Employment

A 12-month contract will be offered in the first instance. Subject to confirmation of funding for further years and satisfactory performance reviews, this role will be extended accordingly.

The terms of employment will be specified in an accompanying contract and staff handbook. Please note that as this position will involve working with children any job offer will be subject to meeting the requirements of the Disclosure Scotland Act.