

Geologist – Science Education Coordinator

Job Description

Education coordinators help develop learning programs, manage funding and may create courses for an organization, such as a school, hospital, non-profit, or learning center. Part of this position involves managing or working with other people or organizations to build education framework. Coordinator positions are available in many different subject areas, so an individual can choose to work in various areas of expertise.

Salary

Entry — \$39,270
Middle — \$66,970
Top — \$105,650

Core Tasks

- Participate in workshops and committees to promote the intellectual, social, and physical welfare of students
- Observe work to evaluate performance and strengthen teaching skills
- Interpret and enforce rules and regulations of state education boards
- Advise teaching staff in curriculum development and implementation of new programs and procedures

Workplace / Environment

- **Work hours**
Approx. 40 hours/week
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- **Environment**
Varies by the jobsite. **Field-based educators** are 'in the field' frequently.
- **Travel**
Most education coordinators work in an office but they may also spend time traveling to **nearby teaching locations**.

Education / Prerequisites

Education Level

Often requires undergraduate degree

Licensing

Varies by state and employer. Usually specified if required.

Pre-Job Preparation

Advanced courses in STEM and experience volunteering with children are helpful

Experience

Soft Skills

- Learning Strategies
- Instructing
- Speaking
- Writing
- Active Listening

Technical Skills

- Computer based training software (grading software)
- Graphics or photo imaging software
- Web platform development software
- Video creation and editing software



Career Path: Gina Roberti

About Me

Science Education Coordinator, focused on Geology, at Mount St. Helens Institute

Bachelor of Science (Geology) – Brown University
Master of Education – Western Washington University

High School Life

"I've always had a passion for **learning and teaching outdoors**. It is really exciting to be able to teach about geological or ecological processes in a landscape shaped by an active volcano. I **studied geology** as an undergraduate and was always interested in jobs in which I could **teach**. My passion stemmed from a personal enjoyment of the outdoors as a young person."



College Choices



"I received my **Bachelor's in Geology and Master's in Environmental Education**, as well as **certificates** in Nonprofit Administration & Leadership and Northwest Natural History. When I was an undergraduate student, I **volunteered** with the geology department and would go down to the local elementary school and run lessons about Earth Science once a month. Whether it is plate tectonics or the formation of mountains, going into a **fourth grade classroom** is a good reminder of where students are coming from and how best to adapt to their learning needs."

Into the Real World

"After receiving my degree, I was interested in learning more about the field but also doing outreach and education. My first job was with the Park Service where I was helping **write a book** about the geology of the Sun Park. I was an intern and ended up living with a woman who was the president of the board of a nonprofit that worked with the park and nearby public lands. I happened to be there one night when there was an **overnight youth camp of Oregon students** and was invited to join their hike and overnight campfire. It was wonderful and fun to stay overnight and be engaged in the landscape that way. After this internship with the Park Service, I continued looking for **jobs at nonprofits** that partner with public federal land management agencies to provide **outreach and education on geology** and natural history of the land."

About My Job

"Visitors come from all over the world to learn from Mount St. Helens. There is a huge demand when visiting such a historically, geologically and ecologically significant place to meet someone face to face for a curated learning experience."

Pros

- "My job is very **field based** — I lead and **design learning experiences** for youth ranging from elementary to college level, many of which are outdoors."
- "Non profit organizations that work in partnership with public land agencies offer many **opportunities to work in outreach and education**. Our job is connecting people to the park and our **job duties can be more diverse** than those of park staff."

Cons

- "Careers in environmental education **do not pay very much** and employees often are required to adapt their lifestyle to meet the job. This includes living in **remote places** often without strong cell reception."
- "Environmental education is a historically **underfunded** discipline. Transportation to remote sites like Mount St. Helens is expensive."

Fieldwork

- "My job is coordinating all the **field trips** that happen at Mount St. Helens and the field science that we do with **young people**."
- "For our outdoor field trips, students stay overnight or visit for the day. Whether it is raining, hailing, snowing, or 90 degrees, we will be out there **exploring**."

Collaborative Work

- "I work with **so many different types of people**. Though I am an educator, I work closely with scientists, administrators, teachers, park rangers and others. My job allows me to collaborate with professional scientists and government research agencies."
- "Work at a nonprofit offers **flexibility** and fluidity. My job shifts based on the season and demand."

Skills

- "I recommend building comfort in conducting **outreach and education to diverse audiences**, through volunteering or other work experience. This job involves working with many different age groups and types of people, often back to back."
- "Be **flexible**. Nonprofits are small, dynamic work environments. My projects are dynamic and shift depending on the needs of the students that we serve."

Education/Experience

- "I **don't think Master's degrees are required** to work in a specific education center."
- "Experience is useful. I was an intern through a program called **GeoCore** that provides short term internships for geologists and other earth science disciplines to work in partnership with Park Service staff."

The Future of **Education Coordinating**

"Many nonprofit partners are growing in size and offering more seasonal and full-time employment opportunities"

"I don't think there's a lot of discussion about **careers in the nonprofit sector**. I would encourage people to think more broadly, especially when studying a science discipline such as geology, that there is more to being a geologist than working as a college professor or working for a government research agency. I am a geologist and I **work as an educator**."

"I think that the nonprofit sector offers a great avenue for people who are interested in **engaging the public** more than academia or research may allow."

"There are **more and more nonprofit organizations** in the United States linked with land management agencies such as the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service to meet the increased demand and use of these spaces. Many nonprofit partners are growing in size and offering **more seasonal and full-time employment opportunities**."