



Collaborative Science Educator

The Collaborative Science Unit (formerly Citizen Science Unit) at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences seeks to add an individual passionate about engaging the public with science and nature to our team! This position will be primarily educational with additional data collection and communications duties.

This position is a North Carolina state temporary position through June 2026 with up to 29 hours/week. The position will report to the Head of Collaborative Science and coordinate with Prairie Ridge Ecostation staff and other staff of the North Carolina Museum of Nature Sciences.

Pay: \$19.00-\$23.00/hour

Work schedule: Saturday required, other hours flexible Tuesday-Friday 9am-4:00pm; occasional evening hours possible (maximum 1-3 hours per month)

Location: Prairie Ridge Ecostation in West Raleigh with some remote work possible

About the Collaborative Science Unit:

The Collaborative Science Unit (CSU) engages members of the public of all ages with scientific research opportunities they can participate in as non-experts. CSU members work primarily as educators and science communicators, leading hands-on, outdoor, environmental education-style programs focused on collaborative/citizen science. Staff also develop and deliver periodic engaging virtual programs. The CSU collects data for a variety of citizen science projects at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, communicates findings to the public, and acts as a resource for community members who wish to get involved in collaborative/citizen science as leaders, educators, or participants.

Responsibilities:

The Collaborative Science Educator develops and delivers educational programming for an audience of families and adults and assists with collaborative science data collection. Because the CSU is based at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, the position periodically assists Prairie Ridge staff with programming and site management/maintenance.

Educational Programming Responsibilities (75%):

- Develop and lead in person collaborative/citizen science focused programs, typically 2-3 programs per week
- Develop and lead periodic virtual programs, sometimes in the late afternoon to early evening
- Assist with training CSU volunteers
- Track and report program statistics
- Participate in large events at Prairie Ridge such as PrairieFest, FlutterFest, and WinterFest, as well as other special events
- Assist with developing educational programming for Prairie Ridge field trips and early childhood audiences
- Assist with communication of collaborative science findings through social media and other communication venues
- Promote North Carolina's nature and public participation in scientific research with enthusiasm

Data Collection Responsibilities (10%):

- Collect collaborative science data, potentially including phenology, ladybug, biodiversity, butterfly, bird, and/or weather data
- Submit project data to applicable websites/apps

General Prairie Ridge Staff Responsibilities (10%):

- Assist with daily operational tasks which may include customer service, cleaning bathrooms, trash and recycling removal, opening/closing procedures, and related tasks
- Interact professionally with visitors and provide high-quality customer service
- Support other initiatives and needs at Prairie Ridge and across the Museum as needed
- Maintain good communication with the staff of Prairie Ridge Ecostation and other museum staff

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Enthusiasm for science education, data collection/processing, community engagement, and environmental education
- Experience working with family and adult audiences
- Experience working with diverse audiences
- Excellent communication skills
- Demonstrated success working independently and as a member of a small team, and developing effective working relationships with staff
- Able to hike 2-3 miles on unpaved trails, work outside in inclement weather, lift 40 pounds, and be comfortable working with a diversity of wildlife.
- Ability to adapt quickly and positively to unexpected changes such as inclement weather and wildlife encounters.

- Professional manner and dress
- Transportation to Prairie Ridge Ecostation in western Raleigh and occasionally to the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh
- Must be dependable and punctual

Optional skills:

- Experience developing new educational programs from scratch
- Familiarity with wildlife of the Raleigh area

Minimum Education:

High school or General Educational Development (GED) diploma and one year of experience as related to knowledge, skills, and abilities in area of assignment; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Preferred Education:

Earned or working towards a degree with a focus in education, biology, or natural sciences related to the area of assignment and one year of experience with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for this position.

If interested, please email a cover letter and resume to Chris Goforth (chris.goforth@naturalsciences.org) by end-of-day Monday, September 29, 2025.