



COLORADO RIVER ALLIANCE

YES! PROGRAM SPECIALIST WILKERSON FIELD TRIPS & K-2nd PROGRAMMING

BACKGROUND

The Colorado River Alliance (the Alliance), a 501(c)3 organization, champions the long-term vitality of the Texas Colorado River through education and engagement. More info at www.ColoradoRiver.org. The Alliance is seeking a thoughtful, energetic professional to join our team as a Program Specialist, specifically for the YES! Program at the Wilkerson Center for Colorado River Education and K-2nd Grade Programming. The primary goal of the YES! Program is to empower students to become active stewards of the Colorado River in Texas and increase conservation and preservation through hands-on, field-based learning. The program inspires students to reduce water use and adopt water conservation measures through practical demonstrations of everyday water savings.

The Alliance utilizes the Wilkerson Center for Colorado River Education, an outdoor learning center at LCRA's Redbud Center, to operate the YES Program, to provide an immersive, hands-on experience that introduces the concepts of rainwater harvesting, watersheds, water demand, the water cycle, healthy aquatic systems, wildlife, water resource protection and river ecology. This program is aligned with the current Texas Education Knowledge Standards.

The K-2nd grade programming, formally known as Dowser Dan, is a long-running educational outreach program that delivers free, 40-minute in-school assemblies to K-2nd grade students. This program teaches students about water conservation and water protection through engaging performances, music and interactive activities. This program has been active since 1991 with Colorado River Alliance taking over in Fall of 2026. K-2nd grade Programming is a youth environmental education initiative that uses creative, entertaining methods to instill water saving habits in young learners.

The Program Specialist' primary duties focus on (1) coordinating a robust field-trip program for thousands of elementary-school students annually as well as coordinating K-2nd grade programming for in school assembly, along with tours for community groups, Spanish speakers, and adult audiences (2) overseeing the dozens of interns each year who assist in teaching these program's STEM-focused content and activities. In addition, the Program Specialist collaborates with diverse partners on other programs, such as creek-restoration projects and annual cleanup events.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES YES! Education Programs

- Coordinate operations and serve as a key teacher of all YES! programs, including field trips for elementary-school children, in-school assemblies and occasional after-school and summer programming, and public tours.
- Communicate daily with clients, volunteers, interns, and education-campus employees to coordinate school assemblies, field-trip scheduling, program planning, teaching, data management, and program evaluation.
- Maintain and develop relationships with community organizations and school districts to market YES! Center programs and expand the reach of K-2nd grade programming and Wilkerson Center.
- Drive the strategic growth of bilingual programming and curricula to support Spanish-speaking visitors.
- Present engaging, age-appropriate assemblies that teach students about water conservation, the water cycle, drought, and local rainfall patterns.

- Engage with your audience by using bright costumes, amusing characters, and engaging in music to capture students' attention.
- Travel to multiple schools to deliver assemblies, often visiting the same school year after year.
- Maintain and develop communications with educators including program marketing, curriculum development, and field-trip reservations using the Alliance's website, online systems, e-newsletters, and social media.
- Maintain and improve all program files and teaching materials including teaching and adapting to new lesson plans, visual aids, data collection, supplies and inventory, budgets, and volunteer training materials.
- Make occasional presentations to community groups, such as attendees at education conferences.
- Oversee dozens of volunteers and interns annually, including training, professional and educational development, and active daily coaching.
- Co-coordinate and implement volunteer and intern recruitment, training, and management with the Alliance's Program Director, including seasonal Volunteer Open Houses and volunteer-appreciation events.
- On a periodic basis, perform data analyses, program evaluation, report writing, strategic planning and input and track data in Trends document.

GENERAL ALLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Function with a high degree of independence and take initiative in structuring and implementing the YES! Program's education and volunteer programming.
- Work with Alliance staff on major events and projects as needed, including the Alliance's annual fundraising gala, Barstow Speaker Series luncheons, and the annual cleanups.
- Assist with the management of the Spring Cleanup, including attending meetings, updating and tracking GivePulse, promoting and organization and drop-off supplies.
- Represent the Alliance to the public and help spread its message and mission.
- Maintain and develop collaborative, community-building relationships with Alliance employees and volunteers and with on-site LCRA staff.
- Coordinate occasional creek-restoration events, as part of the Alliance's Environmental Action volunteer opportunities.
- Maintain a basic familiarity with current water issues and trends affecting the Texas Colorado River.
- Be a team player and help with tasks associated with the running of a small office such as answering the phone, making copies, stocking the office, filing, keeping the kitchen area clean, coordinating meeting logistics, etc.
- Occasionally take on non-traditional tasks as needed, such as running errands for other programs and events, assisting with creek clean-ups, participating in other education programs, etc.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Fully bilingual in Spanish and English
- Bachelor's degree plus a minimum of two years' experience of professional volunteer management and coordinating education programming for large groups of students
- Highly motivated, energetic, deadline-oriented, and able to handle multiple priorities daily
- Ability to connect with children and adapt content for different age groups
- Must have a basic background in environmental science, aquatic science, or a relevant STEM discipline
- Excellent interpersonal skills as well as verbal and written communication skills
- Comfortable working closely and continuously with a variety of people on a day-to-day basis
- Strong computer literacy (Word, Excel, Outlook, WordPress, or equivalents)
- Availability to work occasional evenings and weekends
- Favorable results of all necessary background checks
- Position includes regular lifting of objects up to 40 lbs. and daily outdoor work.

The Program Specialist reports to the Program Director and works collaboratively with Alliance staff and volunteers.

Hourly range is between \$16.83 to \$21.64 an hour. Expected Start Date: July 20, 2026. Excellent benefits include paid health, dental, and vision insurance; generous PTO program; mileage reimbursements; cell phone reimbursement, a flexible work environment; and an office on Lake Austin.

The Colorado River Alliance is committed to providing a non-discriminatory employment environment for its employees. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, we do not discriminate on the basis of age, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity or national origin, marital status, socioeconomic class, or physical impairments.

Applications, including a letter of interest, a resume, and three references, will be accepted by email, at erica@coloradoriver.org. Letters of interest should include detailed descriptions of previous experience with managing education programs. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and this position is open until filled. Incomplete applications and applications submitted through any other channel will not be considered.