

Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) – Part-time position

Job Title: Outdoor Education and Recreation Guide, BRCP

Rate/Wage – Hourly rate of \$15.00 - \$20.00, depending on experience and responsibilities.
Hours are subject to vary with tour demand and season.

Job Description: This position reports directly to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Manager. This is a supporting role for the biking, hiking, and kayaking programs at BRCP. The guide position is a flex or part-time position that is dependent on when groups are scheduled to come to the preserve for a guided bike, kayak, or hiking tour. The Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) determines the curriculum and where the group will go. First time visitors can request what they would like to see, but it is at BRCP's discretion whether to incorporate any requests. Returning groups associated with special interests (i.e. birding, plant/gardening, etc.) will be afforded more flexibility. BRCP is closed to tours during the months of July, August, December, and January for maintenance and/or small capital projects.

Biking Program Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Assisting in setting up bicycles for the participating group, ensuring bikes are clean, tires are inflated, and chains are in good condition
- Greeting visitors as they arrive, orienting them to restrooms, and checking for paperwork
- Fitting visitors with proper size bicycles, adjusting helmets and seat height as needed
- Ride with the group and ensure all visitors keep up with the lead guide; offer assistance if anyone should need help during the tour
- Check bikes for needed maintenance and put bikes away at the end of the tour
- Notify OER Manager of any needed repairs to equipment
- Ensuring all participants and guides have left the property

A core competency is the ability to evaluate the biking abilities and choose appropriate routes, maintain group attention and proximity, and assist in the case of trouble.

Hiking Program Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Greeting visitors as they arrive, orienting them to restrooms, and checking for paperwork
- Leading/ Walking and assisting with group, depending on needs
- Ensuring all participants and guides have left the property

A core competency is the ability to evaluate physical abilities and choose appropriate routes, maintain group attention and proximity, and assist in the case of trouble.

Kayaking Program Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Greeting visitors as they arrive, orienting them to restrooms, and checking for paperwork
- Assisting with group as needed by lead guide
- Ensuring all participants are properly outfitted
- Ensuring all participants and guides have left the property
- Notify OER Manager of any needed repairs to equipment

A core competency is the ability to evaluate physical abilities and choose appropriate routes, maintain group attention and proximity, and assist in the case of trouble.

Requirements:

- Current CPR Certification
- Must be certified to lead a kayak trip; not necessary to assist on a kayak trip
- Ability to ride a bike several miles and hike several miles

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

Mission statement and purpose: The Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) is a privately owned nature preserve. Its primary purposes are conserving flora and fauna, protecting the ecological functions of the Black River and its watershed, and preserving the aesthetic beauty of the river and its associated forests. Over the past four years, BRCP has sponsored ongoing systematic investigation into the history and natural resources of the area, including ornithological surveys, botanical inventories, herpetological surveys and historical research. BRCP has been under development for the past six years and is currently in the final phase of buildout. The goal is to create the finest semi-tropical preserve in the world in the field of education and community benefit.

Who we are: BRCP is privately owned and managed by a charitable family foundation, Butler Conservation/ Park Builders International (BC/PBI). BRCP is not affiliated with any local/community, county, or state park(s) and is not open to the public. BRCP has received thousands of students and adult group visitations through invitation and/or an appointment only visitation policy. BRCP is complementary to and distinct from the proposed Black River State Park, which is progressing under the leadership of SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and the Pee Dee Land Trust. BC/PBI has been a major funder of conservation on the Black River, supporting land protection by the organizations listed above, along with Ducks Unlimited, the Lowcountry Land Trust, and the Winyah Bay Conservancy. BC/ PBI has also been an early and major funder of land acquisition for the Black River State Park, having provided grants to buy three of the four parcels currently under State ownership. BRCP serves as an operating base for the leadership organization working on the Black River. The BRCP has illustrated the potential for sustainable recreation on the river and will continue to play that role in the future. BRCP and its predecessors have been operating outdoor education programs along the Eastern Seaboard, in South America and in Scotland for the past fifteen years.

What to expect: Currently, the policy of BRCP is to welcome invited visitors from a wide range of groups, and by appointment only (via website), who agree to follow protocols that protect the natural, historic, and scenic resources of the property. All visitors will be accompanied by BRCP staff while on the Preserve. The staff and invited guests will maintain the pristine conditions of the park. Groups that are authorized to kayak will be at the owner's or BRCP's discretion. Large groups not on list or authorized by an entity of BRCP, will be required to hire licensed guides who have been pre-approved by the Preserve. Visitors can use bicycles on the extensive network of trails, a few of which have been designated exclusively for walking. BRCP offers a special experience of quiet meditation,

birdwatching, plant identification, and education about the history of the area's natural resources as examined, cataloged, and revealed over the past 300 years. As the Preserve formally opens, we expect to host at least one group per day. To maintain the quality of the experience at BRCP, we expect total daily visitation not to exceed 100. BRCP is closed to tours during the months of July, August, December, and January for maintenance and/or small capital projects.