

STEM Camp Educator – STEM Youth Camps at Reiman Gardens

Location: Reiman Gardens, Iowa State University - Ames, IA

Position Type: Seasonal, Contract/Temporary (Summer 2026)

Compensation: \$25 per contact hour (including required meetings and trainings)

Job Title: STEM Camp Educator

Reporting to: Youth & Family Education Coordinator, Director of Education

About Us

Reiman Gardens is a vibrant university public garden and community resource dedicated to inspiring curiosity, discovery, and a lifelong appreciation for nature. Each summer, our garden offers hands-on, week-long nature-based STEM camps for youth ages 6-10. Campers explore the intersection of science, art, and the beauty of the natural world through inquiry-driven projects, outdoor exploration, and creative play.

Position Overview

We are seeking enthusiastic and experienced certified educators to serve as **STEM Camp Educators** (hired as Independent Contractors) for up to three week-long STEM summer camps (June 22-26, July 20-24, August 3-7). Each week of camp serves up to two separate age groups concurrently: ages 6-7; and ages 8-10. Camp Educators deliver engaging, hands-on learning experiences that connect science, technology, engineering, and math with the natural beauty and resources of our garden. This role is ideal for educators who are passionate about outdoor learning, youth development, and informal education.

Key Responsibilities

- Instruct STEM Summer Camp activities, lessons, and projects for a group of up to 16 students (ages 6-7 or 8-10). Work closely with Youth and Family Education Coordinator and other Reiman Gardens Education staff.
- Guide campers through a variety of indoor and outdoor Garden spaces, being alert to weather conditions, students' level of understanding and physical capabilities. Ability to adapt schedules and curriculum as needed to fit timelines, changes in weather, and unique opportunities that arise.
- Create an inclusive, positive, and safe learning environment that encourages exploration and collaboration.
- Collaborate and co-teach with Reiman Gardens Education staff, summer interns, and/or volunteers.

- Foster curiosity and creativity by connecting STEM concepts to the garden environment through inquiry-based learning.
- Support daily camp operations, including setup, cleanup, attendance, and safety protocols.
- Manage group dynamics and model positive behavior, respect, and teamwork.
- Ensure adherence to all university, garden, and camp policies, including emergency and safety procedures.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- **Required:**
 - Current teaching license/certification (elementary, middle, or high school).
 - Experience teaching or leading youth in educational settings.
 - Strong classroom management and communication skills.
 - Enthusiasm for hands-on, inquiry-based STEM and nature education.
- **Preferred:**
 - Background in science, environmental studies, education, or related field.
 - Experience in outdoor, camp, or informal education settings.
 - Current First Aid/CPR certification.

Schedule & Commitment

- Must submit to an NSOR and criminal background check upon hire
- Mandatory on-site training: Tuesday, June 9, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Required online training (prior to June 22): Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention (may be completed off-site)
- Teaching: seasonal, scheduled weeklong summer camps:
 - June 22-26, July 20-24, August 3-7
 - Monday-Friday, approximately 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (may vary by camp week)
- Pre- and post-camp check-in meetings with the Youth and Family Education Coordinator (flexibly scheduled before and after each weekly camp; specific dates/times TBD)

Physical Demands and Work Environment

- Physical Demands: ability to lift 30-50 lbs.; stand/walk for extended periods; work indoors and outdoors in various weather, including rain, heat, and varying humidity.

- Work Environment: work is performed primarily outdoors in various weather conditions throughout the summer. When working indoors, expect use of general shared office equipment, audio/visual technology, two-way radio, and assorted supplies and tools. Work also involves proximity to, and regular interaction with, living collections such as plants, insects, and other invertebrates.

Why Join Our Team

- Teach in a dynamic, outdoor learning environment surrounded by nature.
- Gain valuable experience working in an informal education setting.
- Collaborate with a creative, mission-driven education team.
- Inspire the next generation of scientists and environmental stewards.

How to Apply

[**CLICK HERE**](#) to complete online webform – **be prepared to submit the following:**

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Contact info for (2) professional references

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

Additional Information

Job descriptions are guidelines that attempt to characterize essential functions and responsibilities of a job and are subject to change as needs and programs change. At Reiman Gardens, job descriptions are considered neither inclusive nor exclusive. It is expected that up to 20% of your duties may change seasonally.

Employees must be able to perform the essential functions of the position satisfactorily and, if requested, reasonable accommodations will be made to enable employees with disabilities to perform the essential functions of their job, absent undue hardship.

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