



[www.fianna.ca](http://www.fianna.ca)

**Position:** Instructor/Lead Instructor

**Location:** Comox Valley

**Dates:** Sep 16, 2024 - Aug 15, 2025

**Hours:** 13-20 hours per week

**Wage:** \$22-27/h depending on experience

\$25-30/h lead instructor depending on experience

**Contact:** [kes@fianna.ca](mailto:kes@fianna.ca), please provide cover letter and resumé

## Our Organization

We are a nature school operating in the Comox Valley, Powell River, and on Gabriola Island. We operate on 8 Shields “Coyote Mentoring” principles of experiential, curiosity-led connection-focused education.

Learn more about our approach here: [www.fianna.ca](http://www.fianna.ca)

## This Position

Yearlong position to work as instructor or lead instructor delivering outdoor education programming to children of ages 7-12 in weekly classes 2-3 days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays) 10am-3pm, (staff schedule 9.15am-3.45pm).

Our programming follows the school vacation schedule with breaks over winter (1 month), spring break (2 weeks) and summer (10 weeks). Employees are asked to commit to 1 winter break camp (3 days) OR 1 spring break camp (5 days), AND 3 summer camps (5 days each).

Our pedagogy is play-based, child-led, and connection-focused. We teach through games, songs, stories, exploration and having fun! We provide suggested structure and content, but also call on lots of flexibility and creative input from our staff to adapt the day as the land, weather, and group dictates.

We hope for our instructors to bring some special interest in the natural world to model curiosity and inquiry to the kids. Throughout the year we work with educational themes of animal tracking, shelter-building, navigation, mapping, tree ID, medicinal and edible plants, nature art, bird language, bird ID, scavenger hunts, crafting, carving, firemaking, knots, first aid and more. Our instructors need not be experts in these skills - a very basic level of skill, and critically a curiosity about these skills, is sufficient to engage kids with appropriate questions and challenges for a shared learning journey. We are aiming to engage with the natural world, and with our curiosity about it.

If you enjoy learning from the natural world, and have experience working with young people in a mentoring or educational relationship, you will enjoy our approach.

We have an overarching structure/theme for each season and plan the details of each day at a staff meeting in the morning, 45 minutes before kids arrive. We spend the morning in a big group for a circle, a big game, and a story that sets up the theme for the day. For the middle period of the day the group may split by age or skill level and each instructor will take a smaller group of 6-7 kids for an appropriate learning adventure. Groups then come back together at the end of the day for a closing circle and integration. Some days (“Village days”) may be spent all together in a big group.

The successful applicant must be comfortable collaborating in a staff team and also leading a small group alone. Some programs have only a single instructor due to registration numbers. Lead instructors are expected to be comfortable leading a program solo.

Fianna Wilderness School offers all staff mentorship throughout the year and free access to all daylong adult workshops, as well as discounted access to workshop series and immersions.

### **Requirements:**

- Valid First Aid Certification: minimum OFA Level 1 (Occupational First Aid) and CPR C (recommended Remote First Aid or higher)
- Clear and valid criminal record check
- Ability to complete physical work, outside, year-round for extended periods, in varying conditions, with all necessary personal gear.
- Personal interest and curiosity for the natural world
- Experience in an educational or mentorship capacity with children or youth

### **Desired Qualifications and Experience:**

- Completion of a post-secondary degree from a recognized university or college in natural sciences, education or related field AND/OR Independent education, training and/or certification relevant to the position
- Previous experience in educational and/or youth program planning
- Crafting experience or special expertise as a naturalist
- Wilderness First Aid training

### **Equity Statement**

Fianna Wilderness School is a settler-led organization that values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to decolonization and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge systemic barriers in outdoor and educational spaces and the importance of diverse perspectives. We are particularly interested in hearing from applicants who bring such diverse perspectives, lived experiences, and justice-informed approaches to their work. We encourage applications from Indigenous, Métis and BIPOC people, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

### **Application Process**

Please send a cover letter and resumé to [kes@fianna.ca](mailto:kes@fianna.ca)

We may take up to two weeks to respond.