



WESTERN FLYER
FOUNDATION

Job Announcement

Title: Education Program Manager

Reports to: Executive Director

Employee Classification: Exempt Full Time

Hours: Monday through Friday with some weekends/evenings

Location: Monterey, California

About the Western Flyer Foundation

In 1940, John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts chartered the fishing vessel *Western Flyer* for a six-week exploration of Mexico's Gulf of California, resulting in their groundbreaking works, *Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research* (1941), and *Log from the Sea of Cortez* (1951). The boat returned to fishing for decades, changed names and owners, disappeared, sank, and was in disrepair when marine geologist John Gregg purchased her in 2015. Inspired by a vision to restore the iconic boat and bring her back into service for research and education, he launched the Western Flyer Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission "to stir curiosity by connecting art and science in the spirit of John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts, and their journey on the *Western Flyer*."

The Western Flyer Foundation has spent the past seven years working with shipwrights and craftspeople in Port Townsend, Washington, to carefully restore the *Western Flyer*, with the goal of preserving her historical significance while equipping her with state-of-the-art technology and marine research equipment. The boat is now in Seattle to have the engine installed and is scheduled to return to Monterey Bay in the fall of 2022, at which time the interior of the boat will be finalized, including an onboard classroom. Once complete, the *Western Flyer* will embark on her next exciting chapter as an education and research platform, inspiring future generations of marine scientists, ecologists, writers, and artists. For more information about the Western Flyer Foundation, visit: www.westernflyer.org

The Education Program

The Western Flyer Foundation aims to "stir curiosity" by connecting the humanities and science, drawing from the collaborative vision of John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts. Our Education Program seeks inspiration from this partnership by offering free experiential learning programs to middle, high school, and college students on land and aboard the *Western Flyer*. Our goal is

info@westernflyer.org

www.westernflyer.org

10928 Clam Way, Moss Landing, CA 95039

to focus on underserved rural communities along the west coast, from Monterey to Baja to Alaska, and on advanced scientific work for upper-division students.

Our team has been piloting and developing experiential education programs to prepare for the *Western Flyer's* return to Monterey Bay. Through our **Community Journal Project**, middle and high school students have worked with art and writing mentors to create journals featuring observations of their local environments, incorporating scientific illustration and creative writing. Our **Science Illustration Mentorship Program** has connected professional illustrators with K-12 classes to provide lessons on drawing techniques, field sketching, and nature journaling. Through our **SEACOAST project**, we are collaborating with scientists and educators at Stanford University and the Naval Postgraduate School to pilot a STEM education program for high school and post-secondary students and their teachers, covering aspects of ocean and atmospheric science through classroom and field activities on the boat.

Position Summary

The Western Flyer Foundation is seeking a highly motivated, self-starting, experienced educator and program manager to oversee our Education Program. The program manager will continue piloting our existing programs while exploring new opportunities to support the Foundation's vision for holistic and experiential learning. The program manager will work closely with the Western Flyer Foundation team, including the executive director, scientists, crew, Board, volunteers, and community partners. This person must be energetic with initiative, imagination, and strong organizational, strategic, and interpersonal skills.

Responsibilities and scope:

- Oversees the development, implementation, and evaluation of the *Western Flyer's* Education Program.
- Grows a network of participating educational institutions and organizations along the Pacific, including the Gulf of California.
- Helps these institutions identify quality humanities and science projects that can take advantage of the *Western Flyer's* iconic status to educate a broader public audience.
- Designs a training program for teachers and leaders in communities that *Western Flyer* will visit.
- Maintains an annual program calendar of events and activities.
- Stays current with trends and developments in experiential environmental education.
- Coordinates with partners, contractors, and volunteers to implement programs.
- Supports grant and report writing and other fundraising efforts.
- Supports program assessment, tracking, and reporting.
- As a vital member of a small team, assists with communications and outreach, events, administrative tasks, strategic planning, and other duties as assigned.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in humanities, science, or other relevant field (Master's degree a plus), and at least three years of professional work experience in one or more areas of

education, environmental/outdoor education, youth development, natural resources, ecological science, and program management.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook).
- Eagerness to learn new skills: a self-starter with an excellent work ethic.
- Ability to cultivate long-lasting, meaningful relationships with schools, educators, and other community partners.
- Willingness to travel to communities along the West Coast from Baja to Alaska.
- Ability to work on boats and outside in various weather conditions.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including occasional weekends and evenings.

Desired Qualifications

- Strong language skills in Spanish.
- Working knowledge of current trends in education, youth development, and experiential environmental education.
- Ability to build and maintain strong professional relationships while coordinating with diverse groups and partners, including teachers and parents.
- Experience in project or program management, especially building a project from scratch.
- Experience working with, leading, and educating youth (5th-12th grade).
- Experience developing and facilitating curriculum or lesson plans.
- Experience leading or supervising others.
- Experience in social media management, marketing, and messaging strategies.

Salary and Benefits

Salary range between \$65,000 and \$80,000. Generous benefits and paid time off.

Application Process

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume (both required) to sherry@westernflyer.org with "Education Program Manager" in the subject line. The position will be open until filled, but priority consideration will be given to those who apply by August 22nd. No phone calls, please.

The Western Flyer Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome people from all walks of life into our team and strongly encourage people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, veterans, and people with disabilities to apply.