

Clearwater Onboard Educator Application

What is a *Clearwater Onboard Educator*?

The Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* has been providing students of the Hudson Valley with hands on environmental experiences sailing on the river for 40 years. We sail daily on the Hudson River from April until the end of October running a variety of programs for students of all ages. Onboard Educator position begins in the spring to prepare for the sailing season and is a full time position until the end of October.

Onboard Educator responsibilities:

- Work closely with the other Onboard Educator alternating schedules but sharing responsibilities on the boat and in the office
- Work under the Director of Shipboard Education and Captains while onboard and in the office
- Live aboard the sloop with the option to stay in crew quarters while at office
- Lead two three-hour environmental education programs with up to 50 passengers almost every day on alternating weeks
- Share responsibilities in training crew, education interns and 6 new volunteers to teach the learning stations each week (Stations cover topics such as navigation, fish, macro invertebrates, climate change, water chemistry and history).
- Operate and maintain a trawl net, plankton tow, water quality data equipment, and monitor aquarium life.
- Maintain a strong line of communication between the boat and office
- Spend three days at the Clearwater office in Beacon every other week to prepare administratively for the upcoming week's volunteers, teachers and students for their time onboard.
- Help Director of Shipboard Education coordinate multi-day Youth Empowerment Programs onboard the boat in July and August
- Be responsible for the comfort, wellbeing and educational preparedness of volunteers and interns
- Help Director of Shipboard Education recruit and interview volunteers and interns
- Stay up to date on environmental issues developing in the Hudson Valley and pass along information regularly to the crew, interns and volunteers
- Be an exemplary crew member and model good shipboard/community behavior

This is a very challenging and exciting position outside on the water, teaching and inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.

Who can apply?

Applicants should have a degree in education, natural sciences, environment studies, or related fields. Several years of classroom or outdoor teaching experience are also desired. Applicants must be in reasonably good physical condition, be self-motivated, enjoy public speaking, have experience with environmental topics, thrive in communal living conditions and most of all have a passion for teaching. Applicants must be willing to live on board a ship that sails primarily on the Hudson River but changes

docks frequently and have the option of staying in crew quarters while working from the office. Sailing and/or musical experience is not required but is a big plus.

What does the Clearwater Onboard Educator gain from this position?

Educators can expect to gain: teaching experience, knowledge of sailing, a greater familiarity with the issues and ecology of the Hudson River, some serious calluses, fantastic tales of adventure, a \$450.00 weekly stipend, and a lasting relationship with one of the most prestigious environmental education organizations in the Hudson Valley. Room and board are included while living on the boat and crew quarters are available while working in the office.

Educators work seven days on the boat followed by seven days off the boat all season. During the off week, educators must schedule three work days in the Beacon office to call volunteers and teachers, update the volunteer database, continue to expand their knowledge of the Hudson River, and help prepare for summer Youth Empowerment Programs.

How Do I Apply?

If you are interested, please complete the following application. Send it along with a resume, short writing sample and cover letter to:

Attn: Education Coordinator
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
724 Wolcott Ave
Beacon, NY 12508

Or email to: educator@clearwater.org

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Please print and complete the following application. Feel free to attach additional sheets if necessary.

Name: _____ **Male** ___ **Female** ___ **Age** ___

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

References: Please provide contact information for two professional references: (name, email, phone number)

- 1. What teaching experience do you have?**

- 2. Educators' primary responsibility is to run the three-hour sails, leading up to 50 students through large group activities as well as coordinating the smaller station rotations. Do you have experience working with large groups and are you comfortable in that setting?**

- 3. *Clearwater* recruits and schedules 4 to 6 new volunteers each week to help teach the smaller learning stations. Educators and Sloop Education Director spend a full day with the new volunteers training them with our education curriculum and materials. Do you have experience recruiting, teaching or training other adults?**

- 4. Music is an important component in *Clearwater's* education programs, do you have any experience playing an instrument or singing with students?**

- 5. *Clearwater's* education programs are environmentally based. Have you studied, researched or taught environmental topics before?**

- 6. *Clearwater* educators work together as a team leading the interns and volunteers but are expected to obey the orders and rules of the captain and mate onboard the ship and are accountable to the Sloop Education Director as well. Do you consider yourself a leader? Are you comfortable taking direction from other leaders?**

- 7. Educators live aboard the boat with the rest of the crew; do you have experience living in a tight communal setting with shared working and living conditions? Is it a lifestyle you enjoy?**

- 8. Camp Clearwater is a summer adventure education program that incorporates rock climbing, kayaking, canoeing, camping and hiking. Do you have experience or certifications in any of these fields?**

- 9. Have you sailed aboard *Clearwater* (as a student, volunteer or participant in a leadership program)?**

- 10. *Clearwater* is always looking for grants, personal donations and other fundraising strategies to support our programs. Do you have experience raising money, writing grants or organizing events?**

- 11. Why do you want to be an Onboard Educator with *Clearwater*, and what do you hope to get out of the experience?**

Thanks! Please send your completed application plus a resume, a short writing sample and cover letter to:

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