

Countryside Learning Scotland (CLS)

POST: Pathways to Rural Work, Regional Programme Coordinator (Tayside)

Job description

CLS plans to develop and deliver its Educational Programme which will:

- Bring together an existing network of charities, Local authorities, organisations, businesses and projects relating to rural education, training and careers with schools and community groups to create a cluster programme for countryside education and progression into work.
- Deliver a regional outreach programme of non residential events and projects.
- Deliver a range of countryside related residential experiences and outcomes with a diverse range of practical experiential learning, training, participation and qualification opportunities for people from all backgrounds and abilities and age ranges.
- Facilitate a broader approach to outdoor learning and outdoor education by creating engagement opportunities for people with recreational, traditional land use and environmental providers for people from all backgrounds abilities and age groups.
- Help to educate, train and motivate teachers, community and youth workers to deliver outdoor learning by increasing awareness of the diverse learning, qualifications, skill acquisition and career opportunities in the countryside and building confidence and knowledge through facilitating and promoting outdoor learning training opportunities.

The P2RW Regional Programme Coordinator

will be responsible for delivering these objectives, through:

- Liaising and communicating with cluster schools (in particular secondary schools), youth and community groups to provide a programme which fits with the Curriculum for Excellence, Taking Learning Outdoors and Education Scotlands Outdoor Learning Strategies.
- Organisation and delivery of specific projects relating to the post objectives including, but not exclusively, Pathways to Rural Work, the CLS Rural Volunteer Award and the CLS residential programme.
- Working in partnership with a national network of third sector organisations, charities, local authorities, rural organisations, and businesses to facilitate, coordinate and organise the delivery of a progressive programme of events to raise awareness of outdoor learning, training and career opportunities within the countryside.
- Ensuring that school and community related events are fully covered in terms of disclosure, insurance and risk assessments.
- Working with rural industries and relevant education providers of learning opportunities across Scotland to assist them in delivering education to local schools and communities.

- Co-operating with other organisations to ensure that the information produced is acceptable and adaptable.
- Maintaining and updating CLS website and social media.
- Sourcing and delivering sustainability funding opportunities.
- Operating as a team member of the family of Countryside Learning Scotland to protect, promote and educate about the countryside.

Job specification

The position will be initially 24 hours per week to be worked over an agreed number of days by arrangement with the Executive Director. There will be some weekend or evening work required particularly in relation to your responsibilities during residential events.

Due to the nature of developing a national programme, there will be extensive travel within your designated clusters and also on occasion across Scotland.

The Regional Education Programme Coordinator will report directly to the Executive Director of CLS, with regular communication.

Please note – PVG – Disclosure is essential for this post.

The salary is £15k per annum (£25,000 FTE). There will be a monthly travel allowance and a budget (dependant on funding) to deliver the programme.

As this position is funded by specific donations, the contract will be for an initial period of 1 year with a probation period of 3 months.

Person specification

The successful candidate will:

- Ideally be educated to degree equivalent but not essential
- Have excellent communication skills and an ability to relate to a diverse range of clients
- Be able to work strategically and be able to multi task and facilitate delivery
- Have a proven understanding of the Scottish education system
- Have demonstrable ability to create and plan workload and use initiative
- Have proven skills in volunteer recruitment, training and event organisation
- Have excellent interpersonal and communication (both oral and written) skills
- Show an ability to think creatively and work in an interactive, strategic and participative way
- Have experience of working alone and as part of a team
- Be energetic, enthusiastic and a self starter

- Have a good understanding of and commitment to sustaining Scotlands countryside and the people who work in it
- Be fully computer literate with a good working knowlege of social media
- Have a full driving licence
- Be expected to travel throughout Scotland
- Be expected to stay overnight during residential events
- Have some fundraising experience

Background

In 2014 the organisation re branded as and indipendant charity Countryside Learning Scotland. We exist in order to meet the growing need to responsibly connect people with Scotlands countryside. Our vision is for a viable and sustainable future for Scotland’s countryside through improving young people’s awareness, knowledge of, and responsible access to, our rural areas and to promote an informed understanding of the value of the countryside to lifelong health, quality of life and social wellbeing.

In 14 years, the charity has delivered a range of projects:

- Scottish Food Fortnight
- Annual Farmers Market in Holyrood
- Dundee Food Cooperative
- Scottish National Angling Plan
- Scottish Angling Leaders Award
- Countryside Days and over 30 Next Generation Country Days
- Scottish Upland Appeal
- Pathways to Rural Work
- Teacher Training on rural careers
- Dundee outdoors.com
- Rural Volunteer Award
- Scottish Angling National Structure
- National Rural Learning Network
- Moorlandscotland.org.uk
- The Keeper DVD
- SCAET to School
- Scotland’s Countryside Festival
- Tam Tod Trophy
- A tailored programme of school events, talks, and visits
- Pathways to Rural Work

Each of these projects have allowed us to build up excellent working partnerships with other organisations, strong relationships with schools across the length of Scotland, a wide network of volunteers and supporters, and most importantly a vast breadth of experience and knowledge in ‘rural education’.

The challenges:

CLS works nationally with over 1000 young people aged 5-18 from a wide variety of geographical areas, both urban and rural, including schools in Ayr, Clydebank, Dundee, Perth, Irvine, Inverness, Aberdeen, the Highlands and Argyll. Because Scotland is one of the most urbanised countries in Europe, we aim to

raise peoples' awareness of the opportunities and life benefits of the countryside. Very few people see rural Scotland as a place offering diverse opportunities for employment or business ventures. Most Scots are still unaware of the wide variety and quality of Scotland's own natural products, or the health and economic advantages of eating fresh local produce. Many people are unaware of the range of cultural, recreational and sporting opportunities available on their doorstep.