

# Naturalist

## ROLE OVERVIEW

**As a Naturalist, you are curious about nature, have a deep desire to learn about nature including the names, life histories and ecologies of animals and plants, and have developed or are developing a deep knowledge of natural history.**

While Naturalists have a good general knowledge of natural history, many often have a special knowledge of one or more fields such as ornithology (birds), entomology (insects) or botany (plants). You have an interest in the intersection of non-living and living organisms in the world, seeking to examine and study their connections.

Naturalists often use their knowledge to educate others, for example, neighbours or visitors to parks, through nature hikes and interpretive centres. Naturalists may also work for environmental organizations or government agencies, leading walks, doing presentations, planning special events or write for newsletters, television, and radio. The opportunities for naturalists are varied, but one that is highly valued is that of sharing their knowledge of nature to connect others to nature and ultimately to better protect and steward our environment.

## STRATA LEVEL: 3B – Technical Specialist

### Also Known as:

- Nature Program Interpreter
- Interpretive Naturalist
- Natural History Specialist

### Education and Experience:

- Bachelor of Science degree with a specialization in biology, environmental sciences, conservation, ecology, or related fields.
- Evidence of personal knowledge and experience of nature. Many naturalists are self-taught and self-motivated. This manner of acquiring knowledge and experience needs to be acknowledged and considered as much as formal education.
- Accreditation through the Interpretive Guides Association (IGA) may be considered an asset.
- Experience working outdoors in all weather and terrain conditions.
- Current CPR and First Aid certificates or willingness to acquire.
- Fluency in other languages would be considered an asset.

### Associated NOC(s):

- 2121 – Biologist and Related Scientist



## TECHNICAL



### Program Development

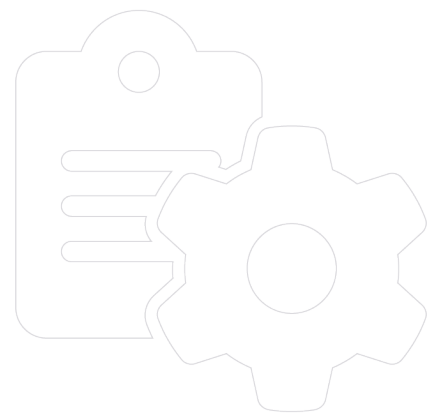
**Develops a plan of actions for an organization's program objectives to clearly define the scope, risks, objectives, and critical success factors to provide guidance and develop effective programs.**

- Works with senior leadership to develop a long-term program plan for each year to create actionable items and track deliverables.
- Identifies, develops, and participates in programs to assess of monitor species populations and or ecosystem conditions.
- Identify new curriculum and partnerships to propose new program ideas and opportunities to improve environmental education.
- Develops presentations, speeches, activities, and workshops to foster access and comprehension to environmental and cultural knowledge.
- Works with local cultural, environmental, and indigenous groups to improve understanding and promote local knowledge of an area's significance.
- Promote ongoing research into education and the development of new education programs to obtain support, funds, and raise awareness.
- Provide a naturalist perspective in the development of other programs and initiatives.

### Program Coordination

**Coordinates components of program activities to improve the day-to-day functions within an organization's programs.**

- Administer, coordinate, and process registrations for clubs, activities, and programs to ensure programs have sufficient participation.
- Oversee communications for programs to promote participation and develop public awareness.
- Oversee the development and maintenance of digital media for all programs to ensure media reflects organizational long-term program plans.
- Coordinate public outreach and educational programs to ensure participation and maintain public sentiment for programs.
- Coordinates wildlife monitoring programs to provide a better understanding of the occurrence, distribution, and status of wildlife in a specific location.



## Program Evaluation

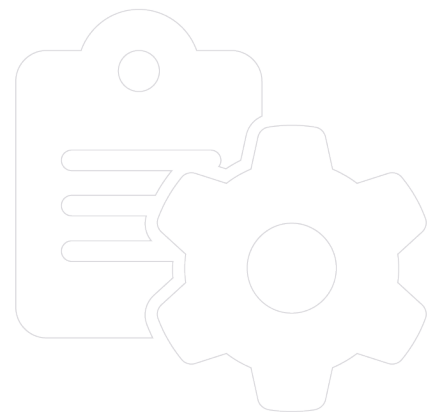
**Monitors program success by evaluating benefits, risks, key indicators, and stakeholder feedback to create comprehensive reports to communicate the program's standing and status.**

- Monitors programs operating data to ensure statistics are tracked accurately.
- Distributes participant evaluation surveys to improve future programs and improve program development.
- Analyze client feedback from programs to amend services to improve program delivery.
- Prepare quarterly and year-end program reports to communicate successes, failures, and status of deliverables.
- Works with senior leadership and other naturalists to revise program outline and program developments to ensure effective and accuracy in program delivery.

## Program Delivery

**Represent the organization in presenting the program to ensure that the program remains aligned with the organization's strategic objectives and program plan as circumstances change.**

- Employ a variety of approaches, learning styles, and mediums to instruct and inform participants on the program at hand.
- Take photographs and videos to use in lectures and publications and develop displays.
- Construct historical, scientific, and nature-centric visitor displays to visually communicate an area local knowledge.
- Deliver programs, public tours, events, camps, and/or workshops to inform and educate participants to improve their knowledge of local areas.
- Prepare brochures and write articles on environmental, cultural, scientific, or conservation issues to share information in a digestible format.



## Scientific Research

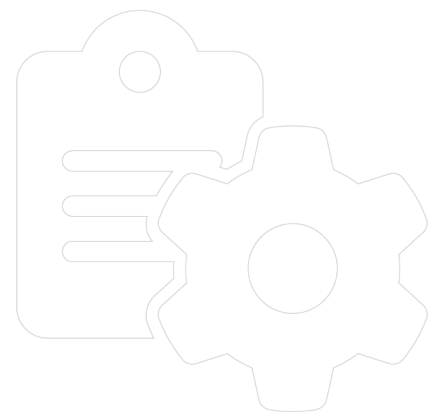
**Applies scientific methods and techniques using empirical and/or measurable observation in their research to improve, correct or increase knowledge in a field of study to solve specific problems.**

- Research an area's natural history and environment to inform decision making and select educational program development.
- Survey areas to determine environmental conditions and the distribution and abundance of species, habitats, and ecosystems.
- Provide local knowledge about an area's natural history and provide information and perspectives on changes over time to species status and habitat conditions.
- Conduct interviews, surveys, or observations with guests to collect user experience information to improve programs.
- Collate environmental data on specific areas to gain a more holistic interpretation of an areas environment to support program delivery.

## Stakeholder Relations Management

**Identifies the needs of relevant actors, working in partnerships with all necessary partners, to achieve a well-balanced solution to desired project, process, or program.**

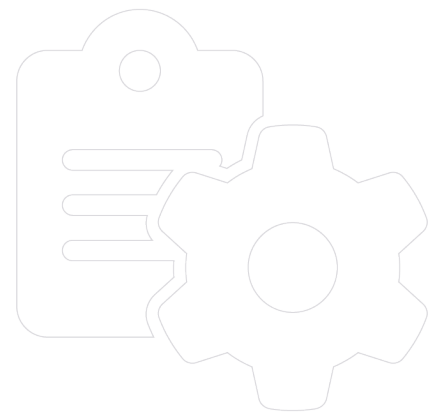
- Creates a stakeholder matrix to identify and weigh actions and address gaps between current project ideation and desired needs of stakeholders.
- Maintains working relationships, both internally and externally, to foster a network of influence and connectivity to improve prospects.
- Establishes a sustainable network of educational partnerships to explore business opportunities and collaboration.
- Identify opportunities for consultation and collaboration with the local community to expand the organization's network and increase future potential relationships.



## Budget and Cost Management

**Ensures that projects and proposals meet corporate standards, and financial and budgetary requirements so that site operations are maintained efficiently and effectively.**

- Monitors the operating cost and budget metrics to site processes, procedures, and performance to ensure operations remain viable.
- Documents program operations costs and budget metrics to report potential profits and losses to external stakeholders and internal decision makers.
- Identify funding gaps to address options for filling gaps between available and required funds.
- Provides senior leadership with input in the development of a cost management plan to establish procedures and documentation to manage program costs and yearly budgets.



## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL



### Communication

**Positively directs outcomes by delivering communication that results in a better understanding of goals and objectives and that capture interest and gain support for immediate action.**

- Actively listens to team members to address concerns and integrate ideas, values, and new information where appropriate.
- Integrates the contribution of multiple disciplines into an integrated and cohesive narrative that clients can readily and easily understand.
- Provides program information to team members to ensure timely communications schedule for club programs promotion.

### Teamwork

**Actively participates in working with and helps others to accomplish a common objective.**

- Recommends improvements or solutions to supervisors for the purposes of improving operational efficiency.
- Presents information to decision makers in a logical and structured manner to ensure understanding.
- Listens to constructive feedback and incorporates suggestions to achieve a collective objective.
- Recognize diverse perspectives to incorporate different ways of thinking into workplace to improve workplace practices.



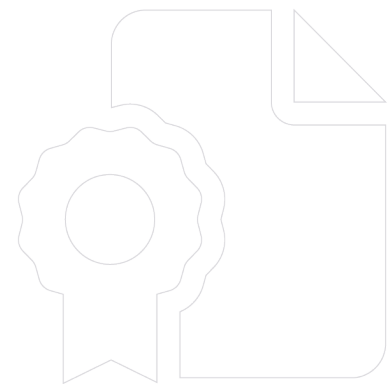
## LEGAL, REGULATORY, AND POLICY



### Health and Safety Procedures

**Abides by and advocates specific workplace safe operating procedures and occupational health and safety requirements within a defined jurisdiction to ensure the health and safety of others.**

- Conducts daily hazard assessments and toolbox meetings to ensure all employees are aware of the potential risks associated with their assigned duties.
- Ensures team complies with organizational safe operating procedures to ensure zero workplace incidents.
- Leads by example in following establish health and safety protocols to encourage all staff to do the same.
- Establishes safeguards and best practices within a project team to align with organizational health and safety plan to ensure the safety of all team members.
- Administer C.P.R. or first aid to provide help to a sick or injured person until they receive more complete medical treatment.



## ENVIRONMENTAL



### Environmental Education

**Plan, perform, and supervise environmental educational activities for a variety of audiences to teach audience members how natural environments function and how humans can manage behaviours and ecosystems to live sustainably.**

- Create and develop educational materials that focus on environmental and cultural significant issues to inform and engage a variety of audiences on the multiple dimensions of human interactions with the rest of nature.
- Create and develop learning strategies to engage audiences in line with the ethos of environmentalism.
- Conduct field trips to point out scientific, historic, and natural features of parks, forests, historic sites, or other attractions.
- Prepare and present illustrated lectures and interpretive about natural history, and related subjects.
- Develops educational programs and resources for a variety of audiences to inform about sustainable tourism and the impact of human interaction on the environment, culture, and local heritage.
- Creates and develops educational resources for a variety of audiences to communicate information in a creative and digestible manner.

