BLUE RIDGE
Wildlife Center

The mission of Blue Ridge Wildlife Center is to protect and conserve native wildlife by integrating veterinary medicine, rehabilitation, public education, professional training, and research.

Wildlife Education Fellowship

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center – Northern Virginia

Supervisor: Education Director

Jumpstart Your Wildlife Education Career

Are you passionate about native wildlife and eager to inspire others through science communication, teaching, and visual media? Join Blue Ridge Wildlife Center (BRWC), northern Virginia's only wildlife teaching hospital, for a year-long Wildlife Education Fellowship.

This unique opportunity is designed for aspiring educators looking to combine hands-on animal care, welfare, and husbandry with modern teaching methods, interactive curriculum design, creative storytelling, and visual art. As a fellow, you will gain practical experience in animal welfare while creating compelling visual and educational programs that connect the public with native wildlife conservation.

About Blue Ridge Wildlife Center

At BRWC, we specialize in the care and conservation of Virginia's native wildlife. Our team integrates wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, public education, and research to provide top-notch care to injured or orphaned animals. As a Wildlife Education Fellow, you'll be part of a mission-driven team dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of wildlife, while serving as a primary creative and educational voice for public outreach.

Why Apply for the Wildlife Education Fellowship?

Our fellowship is an immersive professional development program in an active wildlife hospital and education center. Throughout the year, you will:

- Animal Husbandry & Welfare: Master the fundamentals of daily wildlife ambassador care, handling, behavior, nutrition, and welfare standards across a diverse range of native species.
- Pedagogy & Andragogy: Apply tailored teaching strategies for learners across all ages and abilities—including youth (K-12 pedagogy), adults (andragogy), special needs/neurodiverse audiences, and high-achieving honors and AP science groups.
- Curriculum Design & Educational Art: Gain practical experience designing engaging, standards-aligned curricula, hands-on activity plans, and visually compelling educational signage/displays.
- Storytelling & Visual Art: Translate complex ecological and veterinary concepts into powerful narrative presentations, visual graphics, illustration, photography, and interpretive media.

- Leadership & Mentorship: Develop leadership skills by training, guiding, and supervising interns, volunteers, and visiting students.

Perks of the Fellowship:

- Hands-On Ambassador Care & Welfare: Participate in all daily operational aspects of wildlife ambassador care including feeding, cleaning, enclosure enrichment, medical administration, and health monitoring.
- Teaching & Creative Program Delivery: Lead live animal education programs, group tours, and outreach events using dynamic storytelling and creative visual aids.
- Direct Mentorship & Leadership Growth: Receive structured guidance from experienced staff while stepping into leadership roles by training new interns and volunteers.
- Professional Growth & Creative Capstone: Set individualized professional goals and complete a capstone project—such as designing custom interpretive graphics/signage, developing a new visual curriculum unit, or creating an ambassador enrichment initiative.
- Community Living: Enjoy provided shared housing at BRWC Nest at Stuart Hill Apartments, offering the chance to live and collaborate alongside fellow wildlife professionals and students.
- Visual & Content Creation Opportunities: Lead BRWC's visual digital storytelling through social media channels, photography, graphic design, and illustrated articles for our quarterly newsletter, *The Ridgeline*.

Key Responsibilities:

- Education & Teaching: Deliver captivating educational presentations, programs, and guided tours using age-appropriate pedagogical and andragogical approaches.
- Curriculum & Visual Design: Assist in developing and updating educational curricula, program outlines, visual aids, graphics, and interpretive exhibit displays.
- Animal Husbandry & Welfare: Perform daily husbandry tasks for educational ambassadors, including diet preparation, cleaning, habitat maintenance, enrichment, and biosecurity protocols.
- Health & Record Keeping: Administer medications as directed, monitor animal welfare and behavior, and maintain meticulous medical and husbandry logs.
- Mentorship & Housing Support: Train and supervise volunteers and interns in high-standard ambassador care. Assist in overseeing shared student housing as a primary point of contact between residents and staff.
- Operations & Supply Management: Assist in inventory monitoring and upkeep of educational supplies, art/program materials, ambassador equipment, and food provisions.
- Visual Media & Outreach: Produce visual graphics, photography, and articles for *The Ridgeline* newsletter, and collaborate on creative digital media for social platforms (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube).

Qualifications:

- Rabies Immunity: Current rabies vaccination or up-to-date rabies titers (required).
- Experience: At least 3 months or 400+ hours of experience in wildlife education, environmental interpretation, teaching (including special education or gifted/honors instruction), art/visual media, or animal care.
- Language Skills: Bilingual proficiency in Spanish or fluency in American Sign Language (ASL) preferred.

- Educational Background: Coursework or background in Education (General, Special Education, or Gifted Education), Biology, Environmental Science, Art/Visual Communication, Graphic Design, Zoology, or a related field preferred.
- Driver's License: Valid driver's license and reliable personal transportation.
- Physical & Environmental Requirements: Ability to stand for extended periods, lift up to 25 lbs., and work outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Core Competencies: Strong public communication and storytelling skills, foundational knowledge of teaching principles, proficiency or interest in visual art/graphic media, solid interpersonal skills, and a genuine passion for native wildlife welfare.

What We Offer:

- Duration: 1 year (January – December 2027)
- Housing: Provided at BRWC Nest at Stuart Hill Apartments (required)
- Schedule: Full-Time (40+ hours/week, including weekend and holiday coverage)
- Compensation: $800 bi-weekly (before taxes)
- Benefits: Paid time off (PTO) and 100% covered health insurance premiums (if enrolled in BRWC's group plan)
- Professional Development: $500 stipend dedicated to professional development, training, art/design workshops, or conference opportunities

How to Apply for the Wildlife Education Fellowship:

Ready to advance your career in wildlife education, visual art, pedagogy, and environmental storytelling? Submit your resume (including two professional references), a cover letter detailing your experience in education and animal care, and any relevant visual work, portfolio samples, or teaching philosophy (optional) to Education@blueridgewildlifectr.org.

Application Window: October 15, 2026 – November 15, 2026

Don't miss this chance to make a lasting impact at northern Virginia's premier wildlife teaching hospital!