



## **About the Cahaba Environmental Center**

The Cahaba Environmental Center (CEC) is the flagship education program of the nonprofit Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba, Inc., a residential camp and conference center nestled within a deep bend of the Cahaba River in Montevallo, Alabama. The CEC is focused on inspiring students of all ages to become stewards of the natural world through hands-on, experiential environmental science programming. Our residential environmental education programs offer students from schools across Alabama the opportunity to live and study for 1-5 days at our center, exploring standards-aligned content while utilizing the United States' fifth most ecologically diverse river and surrounding forest as a classroom and laboratory. In this unique environment, traditional classroom learning is brought to life through full immersion into hands-on exploration of the natural world. Beyond providing a deep connection to place, the CEC facilitates social and emotional growth by facilitating students' awareness of their peers and themselves.

## **Our Mission**

The mission of the Cahaba Environmental Center at Living River is to inspire and empower learners of all ages to become stewards of the natural world by connecting them to the Cahaba River.

## **Program Goals**

- Students will make personal connections to the Cahaba River through first-hand experiences.
- Students will increase their awareness and understanding of Alabama ecosystems and human interactions with the Cahaba River.
- Students will connect with each another and gain a better sense of community.
- Students will become empowered to make positive decisions as environmental stewards.

For more information on our programs and to learn more about us, please check out our website at [www.cahabaec.org](http://www.cahabaec.org), Facebook page at Cahaba Environmental Center, or Instagram @cahabaec.

## **Summary of Position**

CEC educators provide high-quality environmental education to K-12 learners, university field science groups, and other user groups in and around central Alabama. Our educators create community with their students and teach them about the rich cultural history and diverse ecosystems found on our site. They inspire students to continue telling the ongoing story of the Cahaba River watershed through inquiry-based education. Educators lead field groups and facilitate lessons with 8-12 students throughout the school's one to five day visit. This provides a chance for our talented educators to develop meaningful relationships with their students and tailor lessons and activities to best meet the interests and needs of the group. During off-times throughout the season, educators will take on program projects that benefit both their individual goals and the overall betterment of the CEC, while making a significant contribution to environmental studies in the state of Alabama.

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Education, Environmental Education, Environmental Science, Biology, or a related field
- Enthusiasm for educating others about the natural world and human cultural history
- Ability to work and live in a residential community and contribute as a collaborative team member
- Displays initiative, sense of humor, and flexibility
- Comfortable working in the outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Willingness to work flexible hours including some evenings and occasional weekends
- Current CPR and First Aid certification, Wilderness First Aid preferred
- Valid Driver's License
- Satisfactory results of a criminal background check including the National Sex Offender Registry and search of the national FBI database utilizing fingerprints, once potential employee consent has been obtained

**Responsibilities**

- Teach and assist in planning engaging science and social studies educational experiences for K-12 students, university field science groups, and other user groups
- Create a safe, positive learning environment for students through positive reinforcement, role modeling, and cultural sensitivity
- Lead safe and engaging canoeing trips on the Cahaba River
- Facilitate teambuilding experiences
- Provide leadership in risk management before, during, and after classes (e.g., respond to emergencies, administer first aid, maintain first aid kits, complete incident reports), demonstrating the need to be proactive in order to prevent potential risks
- Serve as a positive role model to visitors and fellow staff members
- Maintain teaching materials, supplies, housing, and other pertinent areas and perform regular maintenance duty each week, or as necessary
- Participate in staff meetings and reflection of teaching practices and program functioning in order to continue growth of the CEC
- Represent and support the Cahaba Environmental Center in marketing and activities that promote enrollment, as needed
- Complete projects that support and improve the CEC's education program
- Any other necessary tasks designated by educator supervisor

**Start/End Date**

Spring: The spring season runs mid-February until the end of May

Fall: The fall season runs mid-August until the end of November

**Compensation and Accommodations**

\$300 per week + housing. Cahaba environmental education staff will live in shared housing. Each educator will have his or her own bedroom and a shared bathroom. The Cahaba staff house will have a community living space, laundry facilities, and a kitchen. The educator community will be provided meals during programs but will be responsible for their own meals otherwise.

**To Apply**

Please fill out an application and attach a cover letter and resume including a minimum of three references to Lauren Allred, Director, at [lallred@livingriver.org](mailto:lallred@livingriver.org).

Equal Opportunity Employer: The Cahaba Environmental Center at Living River does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, marital status, age (over 40), veteran status, physical or mental disability, ex-offender status or any other basis prohibited by law in any of its policies or programs.