

Job Class Profile: Park Interpretation Technician**Pay Level: CG-27 Point Band: 534-577**

Factor	Knowledge	Interpersonal Skills	Physical Effort	Concentration	Complexity	Accountability & Decision Making	Impact	Development and Leadership	Environmental Working Conditions	Total Points
Rating	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	1	4	
Points	187	67	25	14	90	65	62	21	43	574

JOB SUMMARY

The Park Interpretation Technician provides educational and interpretative programs to park visitors, collects scientific research data and provides support to Divisional headquarters staff. Work involves researching, developing, planning and implementation of outdoor environmental education and school curriculum based environmental education programs to promote understanding and appreciation of the natural environment in provincial parks and reserves.

Key and Periodic Activities

- Develops, plans, implements and facilitates environmental education and interpretation programs and special events.
- Surveys environments and ecosystems for flora, fauna and natural features to identify areas, species and topics for guided walks and nature programs.
- Plans, develops and conducts interpretative programs (i.e. guided nature walks, campfire programs, PowerPoint presentations, environmental games and nature crafts).
- Develops brochures and posters to advertise/promote interpretative activities.
- Promotes, plans, organizes and delivers the curriculum based “Parks as Nature’s Classroom” program. Schedules school groups.
- Plans, develops and coordinates special event activities.
- Provides customer service by answering questions/inquiries regarding parks, natural history and the local area.
- Fabricates exhibits for environmental programming which depict natural history.
- Conducts resource management activities following established biological surveying and monitoring protocols which may include surveying environmental habitats to determine population numbers, recording data and maintaining scientific data sheets, collecting and preserving specimens, assessing biological features and survey areas for sensitive or rare species and assisting provincial and federal agencies with research activities involving live trapping.
- Formats and prepares summer interpretation program, school program and visitor statistical reports.
- Completes data sheet of interpretation programs.
- Maintains inventory of park interpretative supplies, materials, equipment, models and exhibits.

Key and Periodic Activities

- Photographs flora, fauna, landscapes and park features.
- Maintains and organizes interpretation theme kits, storage room and shed.
- Communicates information to park users regarding applicable legislation and reports any infractions.
- Inspects nature trails and advises of any repairs.
- Attends training conferences and workshops.

SKILL

Knowledge

General and Specific Knowledge:

- Environmental education
- Natural Heritage
- Scientific data collection
- Interpretative programming

Formal Education and/or Certification(s):

- Minimum: 2 year Diploma in Natural Resource Management

Years of Experience:

- Minimum: 1 – 2 years of experience.

Competencies:

- Research skills
- Computer skills
- Presentation skills
- Public Relations skills

Interpersonal Skills

- A range of interpersonal skills are utilized including listening to information from park visitors; asking questions to gather information during park interpretation activities; providing routine information to park visitors about parks and natural areas; promoting interpretative programming including environmental conservation, protection and stewardship and conducting presentations as part of the interpretative programming offered.
- Communication occurs with employees within the immediate work area and department; supervisors and managers and the general public.
- The most significant contacts would be the general public (i.e. visitors to parks and natural areas); supervisor/manager with respect to overall direction and support regarding work activities to be completed and co-workers to discuss resource management activities with Park Biologist and to provide ideas and information on program activities.

EFFORT

Physical Effort

- Work demands occasionally result in fatigue, requiring periods of rest.
- Lifting and moving of interpretative supplies, exhibits and field equipment weighing up to 25 lbs occurs occasionally.
- Walking (hikes and guided tours) and standing to conduct interpretative programs and biological monitoring and surveying are constant. Majority of work duties are performed outdoors and occasionally in awkward or cramped positions.
- Fine finger and precision work is required to operate a computer to conduct research and develop presentations and to operate field equipment (binoculars, spotting scope). Some hand tools are used to fabricate exhibits for interpretative programs.

Concentration

- **Visual concentration** is required to survey and monitor habitats; identifying flora and fauna and to operate a computer for research and entering statistical data.
- **Auditory concentration** is required to listen to participants in interpretative programs and is also required for listening to bird calls to identify the species and location.
- **Other sensory demands including smell and touch** are utilized in the identification of flora and fauna.
- **Repetition requiring alertness** is evident when entering data into spreadsheets.
- **Alertness for the health and safety** of children and adults participating in interpretative programming is required.
- **Time pressures** exist to develop new interpretative programs based on different themes.
- **Interruptions** in interpretative programs occur frequently as most all programs occur outside and are weather dependant.
- **Lack of control over work pace** occurs when large numbers of people participate in interpretative programs and special events (i.e. Canada Day celebrations).
- **Eye hand coordination** is required to operate computers and field equipment and to fabricate exhibits.
- **Exact results and precision** is required when collecting statistical data; to provide accurate information during interpretative programs and when using GPS to mark physical locations.

Complexity

- Work involves a series of tasks and activities which are different but utilize similar skills and knowledge related to natural heritage interpretation.
- The most typical challenge or problem would relate to the provision of interesting, entertaining and age-appropriate park interpretative programming to encourage participation by park visitors of all ages.
- References available to address typical challenges or problems include the Provincial Endangered Species Act; Provincial Parks Act; Federal Species at Risk Act; Policy and Procedure manual for Provincial Parks; Nature's Classroom procedure manual and Interpretation standards. Program manager/supervisor, Park Managers and Conservation Officers are typically available for assistance.

RESPONSIBILITY

Accountability and Decision-Making

- Work tasks and activities are somewhat prescribed or controlled as direction is provided by the manager and job duties are set out in a clearly defined manner in the procedures manual. However, flexibility and independence are exercised in the organizing, planning and conducting of interpretative programming which is monitored by the manager and Program Coordinator of Environmental Education and Promotion.
- Independent decisions can be made to purchase supplies or materials for interpretative programs with petty cash up to an annual limit of \$500.00.
- Decisions requiring supervisory approval include travel to attend training courses, large purchases and to make any revisions to the scheduling of interpretative programming.
- Discretion is exercised regarding safety of visitors and staff.
- Discretion and judgment can be exercised to cancel scheduled programs or activities due to poor weather, insufficient participation or lack of adult supervision for children.
- High degree of independent discretion and judgment is exercised as work is performed independently with regards to developing and implementing interpretative programming including which activities to offer.

Impact

- Results of job tasks and activities are directly felt by park visitors who participate in the interpretative programming in terms of knowledge acquisition and personal enjoyment; by park staff as work results may result in work being performed by other staff (i.e. trail maintenance) and other departmental staff (i.e. Biologist) regarding any scientific data obtained related to resource management.
- Results of job tasks and activities impact information provided to visitors through interpretative programming; field equipment utilized; park facilities and natural areas and corporate image since activities are provided to the general public.
- Consequences of mistakes or errors in interpretative programming are directly felt by the participants who receive inaccurate information as a result of the activities offered. Mistakes or errors could also impact health and safety of participants (unsafe trail conditions) and possibly corporate image if the mistakes/errors affect park visitors.
- Typical time frame to identify and resolve consequences of mistakes or errors varies depending on the nature of the mistake/error. If related to the health and safety of park visitors, the time frame would be as soon as possible.

Development and Leadership of Others

- Not responsible for the supervision of staff.
- May provide advice and guidance to summer students and volunteers participating in special events.
- Responsible for planning, organizing, promoting and implementing special events during the camping season including Canada Day celebrations, Canada's Parks Day and Visitor Appreciation Days.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Environmental Working Conditions

- Since the majority of work tasks and activities occur outside, special precautions are required to

protect against sun burn (i.e. sun glasses and sunscreen) and proper footwear must be worn when providing guided tours and hikes to protect against slip and fall accidents.

- Limited likelihood of minor cuts, bruises, abrasions, minor illnesses, fractures or injuries resulting in partial or total disability.
- Primarily working outside, there is exposure to glare; wet and slippery trail surfaces; temperature extremes; sharp objects and adverse weather conditions.