Director of Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies
Burgundy Farm Country Day School
Alexandria, Virginia

SOUTHERN TEACHERS
AGENCY

Southern Teachers is assisting in Burgundy Farm Country Day School’s search for a residential director for the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies (BCWS). The BCWS, now in its 58th year, is a 600-acre nature preserve and a vibrant environmental-science learning center on the school’s mountain campus near Capon Bridge, West Virginia. The Director must be a proven environmental educator, naturalist, and program leader who can manage a facility and budget, collaborate with teachers to develop curriculum, deliver exciting hands-on programs, and hire and train staff. The BCWS, or “The Cove,” sits on the site of a former farm in an open valley that extends into classic hills and hollows. Its forest, meadows, and ponds shelter a wide diversity of plant and animal life. There is a lodge with a kitchen, office, infirmary, meeting space, dining and work porches, fireplace, and attached bathhouse. Nearby are screened-in bunkhouses.

In this year-round position, albeit with some quieter months, the Director lives on-site from April through November. He or she reports to the Head of School, is supported directly by a full-time Assistant Director (whom the Director will help hire) and a full-time Caretaker, and works closely with the Director of Finance and Operations on budget and facility matters. The Director is responsible for hiring, training, inspiring, and directing summer camp staff, drawing on a diverse pool of high school and college students with experience at the Cove. School groups are assisted by teachers, many of whom have been coming to the Cove for many years, and by parents who accompany the classes. The job requires unusually high dedication, stamina, and maturity. The location is beautiful but isolated, and the duties during and between sessions are highly demanding. The school is developing improved on-site housing and considering a staff home nearby.

Candidates must have experience teaching children ages 6-15, preferably in the outdoors; hiring, training, supervising, and evaluating camp or nature center staff; and managing significant budgets. They must have excellent communication skills, CPR and WFA certifications, and experience with camp or school accreditation processes. Other desired skills and experience include marketing of nature or summer programs, helping with teacher-parent interactions, working knowledge of botany and an interest in native versus invasive species, canopy and bus driver certification, familiarity with safe food handling and preparation, gardening skills, and familiarity with Google Suite.

Burgundy Farm Country Day School is a progressive school serving 260 children in junior kindergarten (age 4) through eighth grade on a pastoral 26-acre campus. Burgundy believes children learn best in an inclusive, creative, and nurturing environment that engages the whole child. Its innovative, hands-on approach cultivates independent thinking, promotes academic excellence, instills respect for diversity, and teaches responsibility for self, for others, and for the natural world.

To apply, please complete the online Application to become a Southern Teachers Candidate and submit a cover letter explaining your interest in and qualifications for this position, which begins in July 2022.