

Dear Potential Yew School Candidates,

Thank you for your interest in the Yew School! We are excited to find two creative, energetic, and fun teachers to realize this vision of a “One Room Middle School in the Woods” for the youth in our area. One teacher will specialize in teaching project-based math and science (STEAM,) the other will teach project-based humanities topics (ELA, history, arts.) Teachers will be supported by YMC staff who engage the students outside of your class time.

The Yew Mountain Center is a small non-profit organization near Hillsboro, WV begun in 2016. The Yew School is a proposed outgrowth of our mission to explore Appalachian ecology, culture, and the arts while promoting personal and community wellness.

Like many things over the past two years, the path towards creating this school has not been a straight one. In the summer of 2019, we received initial funding from the Walton Family Foundation to develop this school, but due to circumstances have deferred its opening until late summer 2022. We are excited to complete our teaching team and work together this spring and summer to develop a program that gives students an amazing experience during one of the most challenging and interesting times of their growth as people.

We are calling 2022-2023 a pilot year and plan to use most of our current funding during this academic year. Our hope is that with proof of concept, we will be able to fundraise what we need to sustain the school beyond this initial year. If not, then at least we have a cohort of local youth in our community that have had the benefit of time well spent in nature—finding their voices and learning the roles they may play in their ecology and society, on a local level and beyond.

Our area has stunning natural beauty with more than 60% of the land in this county being public lands (parks, wilderness area, national and state forests) and much of the rest in family farms. We are also an underserved and economically distressed location with all the attendant issues of poverty and the boom-bust cycles of an extractive economy. We want our school to be accessible for families that would most benefit from this kind of education. To that end, we expect many of our students will not be paying much in the way of tuition. Our longer-term goal is to show how much we value our school staff with highly competitive wages and benefits. With the right team of intrepid pathfinders, we know this goal is attainable.

**Employment** from June 2022-June 2023 (negotiable)

**Hourly Rate** \$16-\$22/hr. depending on qualifications and experience

**Responsibilities** include:

June – July 2022 Orientation, curriculum development, assistance with recruitment, involvement with YMC educational programs and stewardship activities. 15-30 hrs./week.

Aug 2022 – June 2023 Teach two sections (about 2hrs each) of either Math/Science or Humanities curriculum. Monday – Friday. Communicate with families during designated times outside of school hours with formal and informal conferences (goal setting) and written reports. Coordinate/integrate plans with opposite teacher. (avg. 30hrs./week)

If you are still reading and want to consider taking this leap of faith with us, you might be our people! We expect you have a lot of questions. We will do our best to answer them and will be candid if we don't have answers yet. This is an opportunity to be in on the ground (forest) floor to create something new—from figuring out logistical details, to creating a school culture, to establishing team dynamics... We expect it will be challenging and rewarding year and ultimately something we all are really proud of. We think the time is right to make The Yew School something that redefines education and the future for rural Appalachian youth.

*Want to take the next step?*

1. Please fill out the initial questionnaire found here or at the link at the top of the Yew School webpage.
2. Resumes and questions may be sent to [info.yewmountain@gmail.com](mailto:info.yewmountain@gmail.com).

Thank you for your time and interest!

Best Wishes,



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Living Well in Appalachia*

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