



Site Entrepreneur Wildflower Schools New Jersey

Who are we?

Wildflower schools are 1-2-room, teacher-led, shopfront Montessori schools that support teachers, children and families as they follow life's unfolding journey. Each microschool is embedded in its neighborhood, physically and spiritually, and draws people together from diverse backgrounds to create inclusive learning environments committed to equity and mindfulness practices. The Wildflower Foundation nurtures the conditions for Wildflower schools to organically grow across the U.S. and, eventually, around the world.

Wildflower started in 2014 as a single school affiliated with the MIT Media Lab, and has since grown into a decentralized network of 31 schools in Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Indiana, Kentucky and New Jersey, with many more under development in communities across the country.

The Role of Wildflower School Site Entrepreneur

The Wildflower Foundation is looking for an entrepreneurial leader to nurture the growth of the first Wildflower school in New Jersey (with a focus on Bergen/Passaic/Hudson/Essex/Morris counties). Your role will be to lead the operations and growth of the emerging New Jersey hub through the development of strategic and funding relationships, as well as find and help guide our New Jersey-area teacher-leaders through a journey of starting and running a beautiful, diverse, storefront, authentic, nonprofit one-classroom Montessori preschool.

What will you do?

- **Invite Montessori teacher-leaders** to start the first Wildflower schools in the New Jersey area. Support their exploration of Wildflower, and guide them through Wildflower's School Start-Up Journey.
- **Offer guidance to new school leaders** regarding all aspects of the school start-up process, with support from the resources developed by the Wildflower Foundation. This includes a budgeting/financial model, partner recruitment, finding space, building out space, licensing, family recruitment and retention.
- **Cultivate our current funding partner relationship and expand funding opportunities** for Wildflower schools in northern New Jersey. Build on existing foundation relationships to foster current funder relationships as well as expand funding opportunities.
- **Bring together the coaches and advisors** that will support teacher-leaders as they launch their schools. You will work closely with the central New Jersey Wildflower site entrepreneur, as well as the national Wildflower Foundation, to draw on existing expertise, resources and their current coaching network.
- **Foster professional development opportunities and collaboration** for new teachers in the northern New Jersey area, tapping into existing opportunities in the emerging New Jersey and New York networks of Wildflower teacher-leaders and schools.



Who are we looking for?

Successful Wildflower start-up coaches are natural coalition-builders, advocates and, of course, coaches, dedicated to seeing their community thrive and passionate about the role Wildflower can play in supporting that. Key skills and orientations include:

- Belief in the Montessori method, intentional diversity, and teacher leadership.
- Experience working alongside diverse colleagues in an environment committed to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Ability to build energy and momentum around a cause by articulating a vision, recruiting new people and cultivating their ongoing engagement. A track record of success bringing new initiatives to life is necessary, and because teachers and donors are two critical parts of the necessary coalition, direct teacher recruitment and fundraising experience are both very helpful.
- Ability to coach teachers/professionals to successfully take on new challenges and to learn and grow.
- Ability to work in a non-hierarchical, self-managed environment: self-starting, creative, advice-seeking, resourceful, independent, flexible and open-minded. Ability to manage your own activities, plan a project and carry it out and follow through on commitments.
- Ability to communicate effectively and compellingly, in writing and orally in one-on-one, small-group and large-group settings.
- Experience working toward educational equity — as an educator, social entrepreneur, advocate or in a related capacity.
- Comfortable using collaborative online tools that connect the Wildflower community.
- Existing presence in the northern NJ region, and existing relationships a huge plus.

More Details

The Wildflower School Northern NJ Site Entrepreneur role is a full-time role although you will set your own schedule. Salary and benefits are competitive. The ideal candidate is comfortable working from home and traveling to other parts of New Jersey from time to time.

How to apply

For more information or to apply, please send a cover letter and résumé to Angie Schiavoni at angie.schiavoni@wildflowerschools.org. For more information on Wildflower, visit wildflowerschools.org.

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