Vice President of Community Conservation

Job Summary:
The Conservation Foundation is seeking a VP of Community Conservation with demonstrated success establishing meaningful and long-term relationships with community partners. The VP will lead current and new programs that will strengthen the TCF commitment to holistic community-based conservation. The ideal candidate will leverage partnerships and mission intersections to creatively tailor projects to meet the needs of our diverse and ever-changing communities.

The VP will be responsible for expanding TCF’s overall community outreach and generating broad public support for our mission. The ideal candidate will be committed to the environment and familiar with local conservation efforts.

The VP will lead and manage the day-to-day activities and staff of the youth education, Conservation@Home, and local community conservation program areas to advance the TCF strategic plan and build organizational capacity. Strong leadership and management skills are a must as the individual will be a part of the overall TCF leadership team.

Reports to: Brook McDonald, President/CEO

Schedule & Job Location: Full time, exempt position based out of the McDonald Farm in Naperville, IL

Responsibilities:
- Lead and inspire TCF's community and education outreach efforts and provide cohesion and strategic direction for a team of existing & independent program staff, including Conservation@Home, Community Conservation and Youth Education
- Be a front-line relationship builder to enhance, deepen, and expand current relationships that create new support and impact
- Help establish long range strategic goals and plans to engage with community leaders to help achieve organizational priorities
- Partner across program areas to expand tools and capabilities within community-based conservation programming and develop strategies to measure impact
- Provide leadership on organizational efforts to ensure TCF is an inclusive organization
- Directly supervise County Directors, Conservation@Home Director and Youth Education manager
- Build structure, metrics, and plans around programs and initiatives to measure and evaluate success across programs
- Assist with annual organizational planning and budgeting
- Develop and implement long term strategies and annual work plans for the community engagement aspect of strategic initiatives and programs
- Coordinate, review and assess annual and grant funded goals and outcomes
- Ensure that the suite of outreach opportunities are thoughtful and strategic and that they build upon each other to engage more community members in TCF’s mission
- Work with the Advancement Team to fund community focused programs and activities, including grant proposals and reports, securing sponsorships, and assist in corporate and major donor relationships
- Provide strategic assistance for Advancement activities across all programs
Qualifications and Requirements:

- The ideal candidate will have a degree in public administration, community relations, environmental education, ecology or related field with at least five years experience in environmentally related community outreach and strategic program development with no less than three years in a leadership role.
- Substantial experience in the strategic planning and creation of community programs.
- The candidate must have experience managing budgets, managing programs, overseeing staff working on a multitude of different programs, program evaluation, cultivating donors and grant writing/management.

The candidate must be well organized, self directed, flexible, entrepreneurial and possess:

- Demonstrated leadership in building, managing, and growing meaningful relationships with a diverse range of constituents
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- The ability to work with diverse groups and individuals, and enthusiasm for connecting with people from a variety of backgrounds
- A high level of integrity, professionalism, and a creative, responsive style with strong attention to detail and follow through, and the ability to work independently, and as a team player
- An ability to work on multiple projects at once and build new projects from the ground up
- Flexibility to work intermittent evenings and weekends
- An unwavering commitment to TCF’s mission and programs
- Ability to speak Spanish is a plus

Benefits:
TCF offers excellent benefits including generous paid leave, medical, dental, and life insurance, and a retirement match. Salary commensurate with experience.

Timeline: Application deadline - January 15, 2022, estimated start date - Spring 2022

The Conservation Foundation is committed to creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment where everyone is valued and belongs. We seek to be an organization where each individual thrives and where unique views, beliefs and perspectives are respected and celebrated.

The Conservation Foundation is an equal opportunity employer. All aspects of employment including the decision to hire, promote, discipline, or discharge, will be based on merit, competence, performance, and business needs. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, pregnancy, genetic information, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other status protected under federal, state, or local law.

Please send resume and cover letter/email to Gindi Orloff, Vice President of Finance & Administration at gorloff@theconservationfoundation.org