RMBL science. OUTSIDE.

Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory Seeks 2027 Summer College Course Instructor

The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL), founded in 1928 and located in Gothic, Colorado, USA, is an independent, high-altitude biological field station. Our primary mission is to advance the deep scientific understanding of the ecology of mountain environments. RMBL provides scientists with access to diverse habitats, research and education infrastructure, a collaborative and internationally recognized scientific community, and a broad base of knowledge founded in long-term research.

Job Description, Schedule, and Compensation
RMBL has one opening for a field biologist to teach the Rocky Mountain Ecosystems short course during the first month of the summer college education program (~June 11-July 2, 2027). Instructors with an approved RMBL research plan may also mentor up to two students in the 10-week Independent Research course (June 7-August 12, 2027). Each short course enrolls 10-14 students and meets approximately 2 days/week for 4 weeks (~June 11-July 2). Students in the short-courses are simultaneously conducting 10-week independent research projects mentored by RMBL scientists. The field-based short course explores scientific approaches to studies in the mountain ecosystems and teaches students the skills necessary to describe the abiotic factors of mountains ecosystems and to identify, survey, and conduct scientific studies of the characteristic flora and fauna found at a range of elevations and habitats. RMBL will assist the instructor in the design of the field course, including identifying RMBL guest scientists. Potential themes for the field course include Rocky Mountain Ecosystems or Plant-Animal Interactions and should complement but not overlap the Rocky Mountain Wildlife course, which is focused on vertebrate animal ecology.

We are especially interested in applicants who are enthusiastic field biologists and can demonstrate an interest in teaching and mentoring early-career students with limited field research experience; and who can contribute to the Program Orientation and other student support activities. We will strongly consider applicants who either already have or can establish a research project at RMBL and mentor at least one student during the entire ten-week summer program (June 7-August 12). This is a temporary, seasonal employee position with RMBL. Compensation for the short course and mentoring one student is $3,000 to $3,500, depending on experience. The position also includes 1 meal/day in Dining Hall during the short course, a waiver of station fees for 35 days, and a desk space in a shared office. RMBL will cover the fee of First Aid with CPR certification, if the instructor is not already certified. Additional compensation of $550-$700 per student, depending on whether the student is a part-time v. full time independent research student, is provided for mentoring additional students for the full 10-week program. Employees in this position accrue paid sick leave. Instructors are responsible for paying for housing, either onsite or in the nearby community. Pets are not

permitted at RMBL. Minimum requirements are a Master's degree or advancement to candidacy in a doctoral program, teaching experience, and knowledge of Rocky Mountain natural history and ecosystems.

To Apply

Applicants should send a cover letter that includes background knowledge of Rocky Mountain ecosystems, descriptions of interest and experience with teaching & mentoring field courses, example course theme/topics, and (if mentoring) the potential for guiding an undergraduate in research appropriate for RMBL's location; a CV; and contact information for two references to Dr. Rosemary Smith (rsmith@rmbl.org). Review of applications will begin November 2, 2026, and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the position is filled. Questions should be directed to Dr. Smith.

RMBL is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, as a recipient of Federal financial assistance, is subject to the provisions of Title IX and the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. RMBL provides equal opportunity in science, education, and employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race (including hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, creed, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, military or veteran status, genetic information, marital status, political affiliation, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law, in admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in the programs and activities it operates. Reasonable accommodations are available to applicants with disabilities upon request.

RMBL is required to comply with all Federal and State Laws related to verifying employment eligibility. All new hires must complete Form I-9 and present acceptable documentation of identity and employment authorization within three business days of their first day of work. Employees may choose which document or documents to present from the Form I-9 Lists of Acceptable Documents.