



MOMENTOUS
INSTITUTE

Associate Director of Nature-Based Services

Reports to: Director of Nature-Based Services

Position Status: Full-time, Salary, Exempt

[Momentous Institute](#) has been dedicated to strengthening the mental health of children, families, and communities for over a century. Our evidence-based insights extend the impact of our work well beyond those we directly serve, fostering a world of emotionally thriving people reaching their full potential.

In addition to providing direct services in-person at our Dallas-based facility and virtually, Momentous Institute utilizes our 1,400-acre nature-based campus in the Piney Woods region of east Texas. Research shows that time in nature improves communication and problem-solving and reduces stress, depression, and anxiety.

Our property, naturally preserved and rich in biodiversity, provides a unique opportunity to combine the outdoors with research-backed mental health approaches. With nature as our co-therapist, children and families visiting can disconnect from real-world distractions and reconnect with themselves and the world around them.

Role: Momentous Institute offers an innovative approach to mental health treatment, helping young people and their families achieve clinical gains using nature-based activities. Our beautiful 1,400-acre Piney Woods Campus offers an opportunity to approach therapeutic goals from a fresh perspective, grounding all participants in the systems and seasons of the natural world. Momentous Institute is in an exciting chapter of expansion for our nature-based programs. Over the course of the coming years, additional programming will be launched at this campus, significantly increasing the organization's capacity to provide world-class nature-based therapy to children and families.

The Associate Director of Nature-Based Services is an agile, multi-talented clinician who enjoys bringing therapy out of the office and into the outdoors. Working with a variety of psychoeducation and treatment groups from both within Momentous Institute and the wider community, this position develops, plans, coordinates and leads experiential and nature-based interventions to respond to the specific needs of each unique client group. The average length of stay for each group ranges from 1-7 days, and groups vary considerably in terms of size, goals, and ages of participants. As a member of a small team, the Associate Dir must be willing to pitch in as needed on clean-up, and facility and grounds maintenance.

We are seeking a highly motivated and ambitious individual to join our team with the long-term goal of stepping into a leadership role as the successor to the Dir of Nature-Based Services. This unique opportunity is designed for someone eager to learn, grow, and contribute to the organization's success while receiving mentorship and guidance from current leadership. The ideal candidate will have a strong work ethic, a passion for serving children and families, and the ability to take on increasing responsibilities over time. The Associate Dir will be involved in key decision-making processes, gain exposure to all aspects of the organization's nature-based programming, and be expected to develop a deep understanding of the agency's values, culture, and goals.

On-site housing is available. The campus is located near Mineola, TX.

Responsibilities:

- Work as part of a multidisciplinary team including psychologists, social workers, parent educators, teachers, and clinicians to facilitate a physically safe and meaningful experience for all visitors.
- Lead experiential therapeutic group programming that may include 6-40+ individuals in nature-based interventions.
- Facilitate learning from an established mindfulness-based approach, using nature as a metaphor for (and partner in) personal growth, adaptation and change.
- Model a calm and caring approach in managing group dynamics, the individual challenges of each participant, and the unpredictability of weather and the natural world.
- Train other mental health professionals in evidence-backed nature-based therapeutic interventions.

- Assist with administrative duties, professional training, and community presentations.
- Participate in program evaluation efforts within the organization.
- Collaborate with the Director of Nature-Based Services for program development, improvement, and evaluation.

Skills, Talents, and Qualifications of the Associate Director of Nature-Based Services:

- Texas licensed therapist; or license eligible (LPC, LCSW, LMFT, Ph.D., Psy.D.)
- A minimum of three years' experience working with children and families.
- A minimum of three years' experience providing group therapy with youth.
- A minimum of three years' experience in a leadership role.
- Specialized experience, knowledge, technical skills, or abilities related to nature-based therapy.
- Theoretical orientation that is strength-based, trauma-informed, and neurodiversity-affirming.
- Bilingual Spanish /English Preferred
- Excellent communication skills – verbal and written.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Able to receive constructive feedback and open to self-reflection.
- Open to pursuing lifeguard certification, low ropes course certification, and other credentials associated with nature-based clinical work.

The ideal candidate will exhibit Momentous Institute's core values:

Commitment, Respectfulness, Humility, Innovation, Stewardship

Physical Demands:

- Frequently remaining in a stationary position, often standing, or sitting for prolonged periods.
- Frequently participating in physically active experiential learning interventions.
- Frequently leading nature hikes, walks, and tours around the Piney Woods campus.
- Occasionally adjusting or moving objects up to 25 pounds in all directions.
- Occasionally operating motor vehicles.

Interested: Applications are currently being accepted, and the position will remain open until it is filled. Please send a letter of interest and resume to:

Fred Lines, MS, LPC-S
Director of Nature-Based Services
Flines@momentousinstitute.org

Momentous Institute/Salesmanship Club of Dallas is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive company culture and maintains a policy of non-discrimination for all employees and applicants in every facet of the organization's operations. Momentous Institute hires, trains, and promotes all qualified employees without discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, military status, disability, genetic information, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

All employment offers are contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background investigation, including a check of the National Sex Offender Registry.

Policy Statement

No form of abuse will be tolerated, and confirmed abuse will result in immediate termination. Momentous Institute/ Salesmanship Club of Dallas will fully cooperate with authorities if allegations of abuse are made requiring investigation.