Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Supplemental Teaching Staff

Organization / Project Manager Qualifications

**Name:** J. Luke Reese Title: Director / Naturalist

**Organization:** City of Austin; Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department

Experience:

* 2.5 years at the Hormel Nature Center
* BS from the University of MN in Forest Resources
* 6.5 years teaching environmental education in Minnesota and Arizona
* 1 year teaching 7th grade science in Arizona
* 6.5 years of experience with land management in Minnesota and Arizona
* Manage a staff of:
  + 3 full-time permanent
  + 2 part-time permanent
  + 2 full-time temporary
  + 1 part-time temporary
  + 15-20 mentees
  + ~80 volunteers
* Receive and/or administer grants from:
  + The Hormel Foundation
  + MN DNR – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant
  + Austin Area Foundation
  + Freeborn-Mower Operation Round Up
  + The Small Change Foundation
* Serve on or report to the following boards/committees:
  + Austin Parks and Rec board
  + Friends of the Hormel Nature Center
  + Cedar River Watershed Citizens’ Advisory Committee
  + Spruce Up Austin Board
  + We Are Water MN – Host Site Team
* Working on the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission’s Regionally Significant Park Designation. Anticipated completion date: July 2019

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Established: 1971

**Land base:** 518 acres **Miles of trail:** 10+

New Interpretive Center Opened April 2017

**Program/event highlights:**

* 4,961 children attended programs with their schools in 2018
* 14,798 participants in all nature center program in 2018
* Held the 35th Annual Halloween Warm-Up in cooperation with the Matchbox Children’s Theater
* Provide summer programming for 6 month olds to senior citizens
* In 2018, 19 mentees ages 13-18 provided over 720 hours of support to our summer programming
* Rent canoes, kayaks, cross-country skis, and snowshoes.
* Receive support from the 501(c)3 Friends of the Hormel Nature Center.
* Applied to and received a high ranking for receiving a Regionally Significant Park Designation from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. We expect to receive the designation during the summer of 2019.
* Have received two Conservation Partners Legacy grants from the DNR through the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center