



Environmental Education Intern

Compensation: Unpaid, College Credit available

Time commitment: 8hrs/week (90 hours min) Sept – Dec 2019

Reports to: Jenna Kallestad, Education Coordinator

12208 SE Evergreen Hwy, Vancouver, WA

About Columbia Springs:

Columbia Springs, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, is a 100-acre natural area, educational center, and historic fish hatchery in the heart of Vancouver. Our goal is to use educational experiences to foster a greater awareness of the natural world, inspiring stewardship. We host field trips for over 6,000 school children each year, offer sustainable living workshops, guided walks, festivals, and more for all-ages to enjoy.

Columbia Springs was created in the late 1990s by local leaders and educators to preserve the historic Vancouver Trout Hatchery and surrounding natural areas from developers so that future generations could enjoy this scenic natural space and learn about the watershed it protects. Columbia Springs is the site of the WPA-built Vancouver Trout Hatchery, which has been operated continually by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife since 1938.

In the nearly 20 years Columbia Springs has been in operation, it has reached well over 100,000 guests, and taught a generation of Clark County residents about watersheds, human impact, restoration, and stewardship. The Columbia Springs community continues to grow each year as it reaches a wider audience and educates them about the critical importance of a healthy environment.

About the Position:

The Environmental Education internship is designed to provide experience and skill-building in the field of environmental education. Columbia Springs has a large science and nature field trip program that is designed to provide students experiential outdoor learning while meeting the rigorous Next Generation Science Standards. Our team of environmental educators, volunteers and interns work collaboratively to provide high quality programs to about 7,000 participants every year.

Environmental Education Interns will begin their internship managing materials, and implementing a number of accommodations and support resources for high needs students. Interns will have an opportunity to observe programs, different educator styles of delivering content, and classroom management. Environmental Education Interns will select a portion of a program that they will learn to instruct. They will take the written curriculum and translate it into a high quality program, leading a 30-60 minute lesson. Interns will be provided feedback, potentially including homework related to teaching styles and classroom management skills. Through on-going team teaching and feedback, interns will have an opportunity to develop a skill set as an environmental educator.

Interns will also complete an independent project during their twelve weeks. Independent projects may include developing learning extension activities, developing teaching tools, translation of field trip

content, and more. Independent projects will be identified early in the internship based on intern goals and program needs.

Interns will have access to professional development opportunities, such as team trainings. In addition, Columbia Springs has a wide variety of programs not included in the scope of this internship. We encourage all Interns to shadow staff members, host informational interviews, attend additional events, and gain experience in other fields related to their internship.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Be a positive and supportive team member, welcoming students attending science and nature programs and providing them support to feel safe and successful
- Perform education assistant tasks of materials management, small group or 1-1 leadership and providing accommodations to students in need
- Read a lesson curriculum and be able to lead that 30-60min lesson for elementary students
- Receive and apply feedback regarding content delivery and classroom management
- Complete an independent project in support of the environmental education program
- Collaborate with staff, volunteers, and community partners to accomplish projects
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

- Excellent customer service skills and ability to work with and communicate to a variety of people
- Knowledge or interest in pacific northwest ecology
- Enthusiasm for environmental education
- Physical demands of the job include, and are not limited to, the ability to walk off trail, sit or stand for extended periods of time, full ability of hands and feet, regularly lift and/or move 40 lbs
- Must be able to secure transportation to our site (no bus line nearby) and have a flexible schedule

Rewards:

- Possible college credit
- Evaluation of work, both mid semester and at the end of internship
- Valuable work experience in environmental education, public speaking, program design and professionalism in a work environment
- Ability to attend workshops, tours, and events at Columbia Springs

To Apply:

- Send a resume and cover letter to Jenna Kallestad at schoolprograms@columbiasprings.org
- **Applications are due by Monday, August 19th, 2019. Internship to start the week of September 16th.**