



Why choose this Internship?

- The Amazing Staff
- Training
- Guidance and Observation
- Career Support
- Salary & Compensation
- Duties & Hours
- Location
- References

Training

Interns have proper training and are prepared before taking on a group of their own students. The initial training includes in-depth observation of and participation in our program, thorough staff training with in-services on our curriculum, and team teaching with an experienced naturalist. This extensive training period helps interns to be more successful in their first few weeks of independent teaching. Our six permanent naturalists have over 70 years of accumulated experience teaching and working as professional environmental educators and share the responsibilities of formally and informally mentoring the interns.

Training continues throughout the internship with:

- Workshops provided by permanent staff and visiting professionals
- Regularly scheduled natural history presentations
- Visits to other outdoor schools
- Personal guidance and observations, which encourage reflection and review of progress

Guidance and Observation

Interns are informally observed soon after they begin teaching independently. Formal observation occur throughout the internship. These observations include conducting a video self-critique. In-depth coaching sessions with our staff follow each observation. Our goal is to give you the tools to become a self-reflective naturalist who can accurately assess your own lessons and continually improve.

Career Support

Training on aspects of job-hunting such as preparing for interviews, assistance with résumé development, and a review of application documents is made available. Our staff maintains strong relationships with other outdoor schools and professional environmental education organizations, and fosters those relationships to help connect our interns to the greater environmental education community.

Salary and Compensation

Our intern pay is \$96.00 per day, and full-time housing is provided. Meals are available when program is in session and basic weekend food staples are provided. A health care stipend has been established for minor medical care and prescriptions. There are also paid days available to visit other outdoor schools. Additional substitute and weekend work is also available.

Duties

Interns get the opportunity to lead evening activities including night hikes, campfire and dance. These non-teaching roles serve as a change of pace and allow interns to gain a holistic understanding of a residential outdoor education program. In addition, interns spend one Saturday per year training high school students for the counselor role.

Hours

Workdays are based on an eight-hour day and a 40-hour week. Compensation is given for overtime. As with any teaching job, interns will prepare lessons and complete some work assignments associated with their training during non-scheduled work hours.

Location

Sonora is an ideal location to live for those who love the outdoors. Great rock climbing, hiking and biking are all less than a half hour away. Our staff takes advantage of the nearby wilderness areas, rivers, granite peaks, and mountain lakes in our backyard, the Sierra Nevada Mountains. For those who like to ski or snowboard, we are within an hour's drive of Dodge Ridge and an hour and a half from Bear Valley Ski Resort. In addition, Yosemite Valley is only a two-hour drive from Foothill Horizons.

By the end of the program, our interns are:

Self-reflective teachers who can:

- Honestly reflect on their teaching and improving their lessons
- Write and implement engaging lesson plans with clear goals
- Command the attention of large and small groups of students

More knowledgeable about:

- Natural history of the area
- Working with children and teenagers
- Education philosophy and practices

Experienced at:

- Working as an integral member of a staff comprised of professional environmental educators
- Working independently and being self directed

We are proud of the many former Naturalist Interns who are now enjoying successful careers in the field of environmental and outdoor education as well as other related fields.