

## Environmental Studies Internship Opportunity Form

**Organization:** Thorne Nature Experience

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 19107 Boulder, CO 80308

**Physical Address:** 1466 N. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Boulder, CO 80303

**Contact person:** Erin Saunders, Education Programs Director

**Email:** [erin@thornenature.org](mailto:erin@thornenature.org) **Phone:** 303-499-3647 ext. 101

**Number of interns requested for Spring 2012:** 2

### Nature of project(s) and skills required:

**Title:** AmeriCorps Member- Environmental Educator  
**Host Site:** Thorne Nature Experience (Thorne), Boulder, CO  
**Reports to:** Education Programs Director  
**Stipend and Benefits:** Full-time member – responsible for 11 months of service, a minimum of 1,700 hours of service during the year will receive the following:

- A **living allowance** of **\$12,100** (pre-tax) over the course of the year;
- A National Service Trust **Education Award** of **\$5,550** (pre-tax), after the successful completion of the term of service, can be used for post-secondary education, vocational school, graduate school, or to pay back student loans;
- Level of service averages **40 hours per week**
- **Health insurance** as part of the AmeriCorps health plan; and
- **Child care**, if eligible.

**Application Deadline:**

February 28, 2012

**Application Process:**

Please submit an online application – instructions are available at the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers AmeriCorps website: [www.ndmva.org](http://www.ndmva.org)

Please select **Boulder, Colorado** as your service location to find detailed service descriptions.

You may also contact:

Erin Saunders, Thorne Education Programs Director  
P.O. Box 19107

Boulder, CO 80308

[erin@thornenature.org](mailto:erin@thornenature.org) [www.thornenature.org](http://www.thornenature.org)

Cathie Williamson, VP for Programs and NDMV

AmeriCorps Site Director

“I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County

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[www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

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**Thorne Mission and History:**

Thorne Nature Experience is a non-profit organization that is committed to building Earth stewardship by connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences. Thorne believes in discovery, exploration, and a connection to the natural world. Founded in 1954, Thorne has a rich history and has reached more than 200,000 children and adults through its three programs: School (in-school and afterschool), Summer Camp, and Field Trip.

**AmeriCorps Member- Environmental Education Service Description:**

Thorne is seeking applicants for one full-time AmeriCorps Environmental Educator position for **September 4, 2012 to July 26, 2013**, to help further our mission by delivering services to the community through Thorne's various programs. This position will also act as Thorne's liaison with the "I Have a Dream" Foundation of Boulder County ("I Have a Dream") and will help grow our partnership by delivering Thorne programs to Dreamers in Boulder County.

**Expectation for AmeriCorps Member and All Thorne Employees:**

Support the Thorne mission and exhibit a commitment to:

- Working collaboratively, with integrity and respect for fellow employees, associates, and our communities,
- Embracing personal responsibility and accountability for your job.

**Job Purpose:**

The AmeriCorps Member's role is to provide joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences to students through Thorne's three programs- School, Summer Camp, and Field Trip.

**Principal Responsibilities:**

- Teach Thorne's environmental education programs to Boulder County youth, including up to 4 days/week during the school year and 5 days/week during the summer between all programs:
  - Teach up to 4 days/week of Thorne's In-School program that focuses on delivering science and nature education to low-income youth through three visits to a classroom
  - Teach one day per week of Thorne's Field Trip programs during fall and spring seasons for Boulder Valley School District 4<sup>th</sup> graders delivered at our site on 45-acres of Boulder Open Space
  - Teach Thorne's Nature Experience Field Trip programs in Littleton and Boulder as needed in the spring- these field trips are designed as a 4<sup>th</sup> visit to Thorne's In-School Program to get students outside into nature
  - Teach Thorne's Afterschool Program 1-2 days a week- this program focuses on schools that Thorne provides In-School programs for, in order to deepen our connection to students and enhance science. It runs up to 12 weeks/semester and gets students outside in their school yard learning about science and

nature

- Serve as an Instructor for the Thorne's Summer Camp for six to eight weeks during the summer months, including teaching programs for Dreamers through "I Have a Dream" partnership.
- Assist Lead Educator with curriculum development and supply management as needed
- Participate in Thorne Nature Experience assemblies, special events, and outreach activities as needed or schedule permits
- Assist Education Programs Coordinator and Director as requested
- Create and/or edit "eBooks" for In-School Programs taught
- Act as Thorne's liaison for our partnership with "I Have a Dream" and will help grow this partnership by delivering Thorne programs to Dreamers in Boulder County.

**Training Opportunities Provided:**

- Initial 2-week AmeriCorps Training/Orientation to "I Have a Dream" and NDMVA
- Thorne In-School and eBook training (including shadowing a Thorne Instructor)
- Thorne Field trip training (including shadowing a Thorne Instructor)
- Thorne Afterschool program training
- Thorne Summer Camp Instructor training
- Ongoing AmeriCorps Workshops

**Meeting Schedule:**

- Monthly Thorne Education Team Meetings
- Monthly AmeriCorps meetings
- Bi-weekly Thorne Staff Meetings
- Bi-weekly Thorne Supervisor Meetings

**Desired Outcomes:**

- Contribute towards successful delivery of Thorne's programs and the achievement of Thorne's mission
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating of Thorne's programs ability to connect participants to nature
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating that Thorne program content is mostly or completely age appropriate

**Job Interrelationships:**

- AmeriCorps Members
- I Have a Dream Staff
- Thorne Staff and Summer Camp Instructors
- Thorne Program Participants and School Administration
- Thorne Summer Camp Parents and Families
- Volunteers and Interns
- General Public
- Guest Speakers and Community Partners

**Desired Skills and Abilities:**

- Strong communication skills with adults and children
- Good organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks and roles, patiently and professionally

**Desired Behavioral Traits and Attitudes:**

- Team player, fun, outgoing, passionate, organized, creative, resourceful, critical thinker, results-oriented, and self-motivated
- Strong interest in learning skills and teaching environmental education in informal settings
- Passionate about Thorne's mission and environmentally concerned and aware

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- To be eligible to serve as an AmeriCorps Member, one must be at least 17 years of age; be a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien; and have a high school diploma or GED. Thorne prefers that members be at least 21 years of age.
- Conversational/proficient in Spanish is **strongly preferred**
- Background check and fingerprints submitted and cleared by the Colorado Department of Human Services (Thorne helps and pays for this)
- Minorities encouraged to apply

**Special Requirements:**

- Must have a personal car and be willing to drive to various locations (Thorne reimburses for mileage)
- Occasional long hours and work on weekends may be necessary