

Environmental Studies Internship Opportunity Form

Organization: Thorne Nature Experience

Mailing Address: PO Box 19107 Boulder, CO 80308

Physical Address: 1466 N. 63rd Street Boulder, CO 80303

Contact person: Stephanie Muirhead, Administrative Director

Email: stephanie@thornenature.org **Phone:** 303-499-3647 ext. 100

Number of interns requested for Spring 2012: 30+

Nature of project(s) and skills required:

Internship Title: Thorne Summer Camp Teaching Assistant
Employer: Thorne Nature Experience (TEI); Boulder, CO
Job Status: Part time, Seasonal Volunteer. At least 1 full week (Mon-Fri) for up to eight weeks of camp program
Pay Rate: Unpaid Volunteer Position
Reports to: Administrative Director
Application Deadline: Position open until filled
Application Process: Additional information available at www.thornenature.org. Questions regarding the position can be directed to info@thornenature.org and will be responded to within 3 business days. To apply, submit the Teaching Assistant Application Form together with a resume by mail, e-mail, or fax to:
Thorne Nature Experience
P.O. Box 19107
Boulder, CO 80308
info@thornenature.org
720-565-3873 (fax)

Thorne Nature Experience 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 In-School, Summer Camp, and Field Trip Programs.

Thorne Summer Camp Program Description:

Established in 1957, Thorne Summer Camp reaches more than 1,400 youth each summer through field-based ecology "Camp Experiences" for kids ages 3-15. Learning takes place through hands-on, science-based, experiential activities. Popular "Camp

Experiences” like, Mud Mucking, At Home in the Woods, and Bird Banding utilize local prairie grasslands, evergreen forests, and wetland habitats as a classroom and enable youth to connect with and learn about nature. Thorne Summer Camp is licensed by the State of Colorado Division of Childcare.

Expectation for All Volunteers:

Support the Thorne Nature Experience 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 role at Thorne.

Purpose:

The Thorne Summer Camp Teaching Assistant provides program support for Instructors, contributing to our mission of connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences. The Teaching Assistant will support a “Camp Experience” by spending each day in the field, Monday-Friday.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Support Instructors in the field with supplies and added supervision
- Actively assist in the education of students about the wonders of the natural world through joyful, hands-on, field-based exploration
- Participate in the drop off and pick up protocol for Thorne Summer Camp- assisting parents, Instructors, and Education Programs Director
- Act as a role model for all students, illustrating appropriate behavior and environmental ethics
- Encourage a joyful, safe, meaningful outdoor experience for students.
- Ensure the physical and emotional safety of all students during programming
- Complete any required forms and submit all required information needed by Thorne Nature Experience for compliances with Colorado Department of Social Services child care licensing standards

Desired Outcomes:

- Contribute towards successful delivery of Thorne Summer Camp and the achievement of Thorne’s mission
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating of Thorne Summer Camp’s ability to connect students to nature
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating that Thorne Summer Camp pick-up/drop-off process was good or fantastic
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating that Thorne Summer Camp Instructors feel supported by Thorne Staff in the field
- Contribute towards achieving 95% or better positive rating that parents will send their child to Thorne Summer Camp in the future
- Contribute towards achieving 95% or better positive rating that the camp was well managed and well organized

Job Interrelationships:

- Thorne Nature Experience Staff and Thorne Summer Camp Instructors
- Thorne Summer Camp Students
- Thorne Summer Camp Parents and Families
- Other 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
- Must be able to hike up to one mile
- If volunteering with a biking “Camp Experience,” must have a tuned bike, helmet, and replacement tire tubes
- If volunteering for an Adventure “Camp Experience,” must be able to participate in the overnight

Desired Behavioral Traits and Attitudes:

- Team player, fun, outgoing, passionate, positive, mature, organized, creative, resourceful, timely, critical thinker, results-oriented, and self motivated.
- Strong interest in and/or with some experience in environmental education in informal settings.
- Passionate about Thorne Nature Experience’s mission and environmentally concerned and aware.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 16 or older
- Experience with school-age children strongly recommended
- If volunteering for more than 2 weeks, current CPR, First Aid, and Universal Precautions certifications and background check and fingerprints submitted and cleared by the Colorado Department of Human Services (Thorne helps with this)
- Minorities encouraged to apply

Special Requirements:

- Must commit to working at least 1 full week for up to all eight weeks of Thorne Summer Camp

Compensation:

- This is an unpaid volunteer position
- Thorne Staff is willing to fill out required forms for school credit, act as a reference for Volunteer, and/or write a letter of recommendation if requested.