

Environmental Studies Internship Opportunity Form

Organization: Thorne Ecological Institute

Mailing Address: PO Box 19107 Boulder, CO 80308

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

Contact person: Katie Hill Renga, Education Programs Coordinator

Email: katie@thorne-eco.org **Phone:** 303-499-3647 ext. 103

Number of interns requested for fall: 12+

Nature of project(s) and skills required:

Job Title: Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Intern
Employer: Thorne Ecological Institute (TEI); Boulder, CO
Job Status: Part time, Seasonal Intern. One or more 6-hour day(s) per week (Wed-Fri) for all seven weeks of field trip season – starting September 14 through October 28.
Pay Rate: Unpaid Internship
Reports to: Education Programs Coordinator
Application Deadline: August 17, 2011
Application Process: Additional information and application available at www.thorne-eco.org/opportunities. Questions regarding the position can be directed to 303-499-3647 x 103 or katie@thorne-eco.org and will be responded to within 3 business days. To apply, submit a completed application together with a resume by mail or email to:
Thorne Ecological Institute
Attn: Katie Renga, Education Programs Coordinator
P.O. Box 19107
Boulder, CO 80308
katie@thorne-eco.org

TEI Mission and History:

Thorne Ecological Institute (TEI) is a non-profit organization that is committed to building Earth stewardship by connecting youth to nature through joyful, place-based, hands-on environmental education experiences. TEI 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: Project BEAR, Thorne Natural Science School, and the Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Program.

Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Program Description:

The Sombrero Marsh Partnership is a unique partnership between Thorne Ecological Institute, Boulder Valley School District, and City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. Through this partnership, Thorne provides field trips to fourth grade classrooms within BVSD. These field trips are correlated to District and State Science Standards and are free for participating schools. The field trips include four stations, which students rotate through. Two are outdoors (Birds and Wetland Ecology) and two are indoors (Water Pollution and Plants/Seed Dispersal). Interns are needed to teach each of these four stations over the seven week fall field trip season.

Expectation for All Interns:

Support the Thorne mission and exhibit a commitment to:

- Working collaboratively, with integrity and respect for fellow interns, Thorne Employees, associates, and our communities,
- Embracing personal responsibility and accountability for your role at Thorne.

Internship Purpose:

Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Interns will work collaboratively to provide joyful, hands-on, place-based field trip programs at Sombrero Marsh for fourth grade Boulder Valley School District students.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Attend Mandatory Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Training on Saturday, September 10, 2011 explaining all four stations of the field trip program.
- Shadow each of the 4 stations of the program during the first week of field trips
- Teach at least one 5.5-hour field trip day per week during the 7-week spring season of Sombrero Marsh Field Trips, which run September 14 through October 28, 2011.
- Learn the Sombrero Marsh Field Trip curriculum and skillfully and enthusiastically instruct one of the four stations each day you are scheduled to work.
- Participate in introduction and conclusion of program.
- Assist in set-up and cleanup of classroom and lab for program.
- Assist with site improvements and maintenance of indoor and outdoor environments.
- Encourage earth stewardship in students through enthusiasm, knowledge, and passion for nature.
- Act as a role model for all students, illustrating appropriate behavior and environmental ethics.
- Encourage a joyful, safe, meaningful outdoor experience for students.
- For Field Trip Interns working on Fridays: Sept. 23 and Oct. 14 will have alternate programming where interns will work in a different capacity to support programs. Hours may vary slightly on these two dates.

Desired Outcomes:

- Contribute towards successful delivery of Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Programs and the achievement of Thorne's mission
- Contribute towards achieving 85% or better positive rating of Sombrero Marsh Field Trip Program's ability to connect students to nature
- Contribute towards achieving 95% or better positive rating that the field trip was well managed and well organized
- Contribute towards achieving 95% or better positive rating that teachers will bring their classes back to a field trip in the future

Job Interrelationships:

- TEI Staff and TNSS Instructors
- TNSS Students
- TNSS 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 and/or with some experience teaching environmental education in informal settings.
- Passionate about TEI's mission and environmentally concerned and aware.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 18 or older
- Preference for those with or working on a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Education, Environmental Studies, Biology, Geology, Education, or related field
- Background check and fingerprints submitted and cleared by the Colorado Department of Human Services (Thorne helps with this)
- Preference for those with Spanish language skills
- Minorities encouraged to apply

Dates of Sombrero Marsh Field Trips:

- September 14 – October 28

Special Requirements:

- Must commit to working at least 1 day/week for all seven weeks of field trip season (Wed, Thurs, or Fri)
- Must be available from 8:30 to 2:00 for field trips, set-up, and cleanup on the days you are scheduled to work
- Must be available for training Saturday, September 10, 2011 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Compensation:

- This is an unpaid Internship, however you will complete 40 or more documented hours of professional environmental education instruction through this internship.
- Thorne Staff is willing to fill out required forms for school credit, act as a reference for Intern, and/or write a letter of recommendation if needed.
- Successful Interns may have the opportunity to teach for our summer TNSS program as a paid instructor.