



Natural Resource Program Academic Internship: Youth in Nature

Marin Municipal Water District, Sky Oaks Headquarters

Part Time, Spring Semester 2017 (with potential for Summer Extension)

Available only to students currently enrolled at COM, SFSU, and CCSF

OVERVIEW

Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) is a public agency that provides and protects the major source of domestic water for Marin residents from its watershed lands that include 18,600 acres in the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. Besides this primary purpose, the watershed is held in trust as a natural environment of great biological diversity, as scenic open space, and as an area for outdoor recreation. More than 1000 types of plants and 400 kinds of animals, including 80 rare, threatened and endangered species call this land their home.

Caring for nature, managing visitors, and involving the public in watershed stewardship are the central tasks of the rangers, natural resource specialists, and watershed maintenance staff. Volunteers play a critical role in helping us maintain the scenic beauty and biological richness of the watershed. From improving trails, restoring habitat, monitoring wildlife and protecting threatened animals, MMWD has a variety of volunteer opportunities for community members inspired to be ecological stewards.

POSITION

Working as part of a team, the Youth in Nature intern will help lead environmental education programs that support the stewardship and conservation goals of MMWD. This involves organization and delivery of [educational programs](#) and specialized volunteer workdays for youth, adults, school groups and community organizations.

MMWD offers a variety of internship positions that provide experience in vegetation ecology, biological monitoring, youth engagement, and the use of GIS and GPS in conservation and resource management. Though interns will focus on one discipline, MMWD encourages interns to explore other programs in order to get a more comprehensive experience in the world of natural resource management on the Mt. Tam watershed.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Working with the Volunteer Coordinator, the intern will gain experience leading service-learning programs for students in grades three through five, high school and college. Typical assignments would include:

- Developing and delivering informal environmental education curriculum to promote water conservation and support habitat monitoring and restoration efforts
- Facilitating service-learning programs for youth in the classroom and on the watershed
- Co-leading outdoor field trips, citizen science and restoration projects for youth
- Assisting instructors in processing and analyzing student-collected data
- Learning ecological monitoring methods including data collection, data entry and processing and generating summary reports
- Developing plant and animal identification skills
- Performing outreach and build partnerships with local schools and youth organizations
- Creating instructional and inspirational videos
- Following instructions from all watershed staff, understand and respect all watershed regulations and policies
- Following safety guidelines including responsible use of personal protective gear including a hat, sunblock and sturdy footwear

BENEFITS

- Valuable training through real-world experience by participating directly in problem-solving activities and access to top-notch professionals.
- Opportunities to work with staff and volunteers from diverse backgrounds that share a common interest in preserving and protecting our nation's natural and cultural resources.
- A uniform will be provided.
- Opportunity for personal/professional development days to pursue an interest, including training and education in various departments within the Park Service, the Parks Conservancy and MMWD.
- Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) per day taxable stipend available, plus academic credit.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Ability and desire to work with people of varying backgrounds and ages, different backgrounds, ethnicity, races, genders, sexualities, ages, and viewpoints
- Enthusiasm for working with youth, and the community in general
- A love of nature, outdoor work, and getting your hands dirty

- Interest in ecological restoration, environmental education, and community stewardship
- Talent for nurturing healthy and productive group dynamics; strong oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge of San Francisco Bay region flora, ecology, biological monitoring or the aptitude to learn
- Experience in working with computers, the Internet, Microsoft Office Programs, and with computer databases
- Ability to follow directions carefully, but also to work independently and take on a leadership role as needed
- Creativity and problem-solving skills
- Reliable, punctual, resourceful, self-motivated and detail-oriented
- Bilingual in Spanish or other language not required, but a plus

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

Position will take place in the office and in the field. Outdoor tasks are performed in all extremes of weather in hilly terrain. Some assignments may require stamina to perform light physical labor. You may hike in adverse conditions that include extended exposure to sun, wind, rain, uneven terrain, mud, poison oak, and various invertebrates and other animals. Sky Oaks Headquarters is located in Fairfax and is a minimum 40 minute drive from SF or the East Bay. There is no public transportation to this location.

TERMS

- Desired Start Date: January 2017
- 2-3 days per week, January through May typically 8:00 to 3:30. Summer extension possible based on funding, performance, and need
- Available only to students currently enrolled at College of Marin, SF State, and City College of San Francisco
- Fifty Dollar (\$50.00) per day taxable stipend plus academic credit available
- Intern must have a Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to receive stipend

To apply for this position, please [submit an application](#) and send a resume and a thoughtful cover letter to AcademicIntern@parksconservancy.org. Please indicate the position(s) that you are applying for in your cover letter. No phone calls please.

Marin Municipal Water District, the Parks Conservancy and National Park Service seek to increase diversity in the workplace and reflect our Bay Area community. People of color and of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.