



NATURALIST INTERN PROGRAM

*Training at a New York State DEC Environmental Education Center
in becoming an Environmental Educator*

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, NY
Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center, Depew, NY

The environmental education centers operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) offer ten- to twelve-week (center-dependent) naturalist internships to persons seeking professional experience in environmental education. Each intern will receive training in the mission and role of the NYSDEC's environmental education bureau, a wide variety of center programs, the operations and activities of a center, principles of environmental interpretation and natural history of New York. Interns will assist environmental education staff in carrying out the responsibilities necessary to meet the center's objectives. Opportunities for training and development of specific skills will be available depending on each intern's interests and the center's needs.

Qualifications

Anyone with a minimum of two years of college-level study or equivalent experience may apply. Academic training in natural resources, natural sciences (geology, biology), environmental science, interpretation, education, recreation or a related field is advantageous. Preference will be given to candidates with a strong natural history background, experience with teaching or youth leadership, and a demonstrated interest in environmental education. We expect interns to have a professional attitude and exemplify the standards of the NYSDEC.

Intern Benefits

- Training in natural history and environmental communication skills
- Experience in all aspects of center operation
- Frequent evaluations
- Possibility of college credit
- Employment recommendations
- Housing in a fully furnished house with private room
- Office space with internet access and phone
- Opportunity to work with other divisions of NYSDEC
- Opportunity to visit other environmental education providers
- \$275.00 per week stipend

Intern Responsibilities (may include the following)

Educational Activities

- Complete intern training: orientation to job and NYSDEC, environmental education philosophy and techniques, environmental education literature, customer service, safety, and emergency procedures
- Plan and lead a variety of environmental activities for a wide variety of audiences including: preschool, elementary, middle, high school, youth groups, special needs groups, general public
- Design, prepare, conduct, and evaluate an original environmental education presentation

- Interact with the public during weekend and weekday Visitor Center receptionist duty
- Write newsletter or newspaper articles on natural history or environmental topics
- Attend teacher training workshops and assist staff in conducting; including Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and Project WET
- Attend staff nature study training sessions
- Complete a project (to be arranged with the intern's supervisor). Examples of past projects:
 - plan and present a walk on a particular topic either on or off-site
 - create a themed audio-visual presentation
 - design and construct an exhibit
 - develop new lesson plans and teaching activity materials
 - write a seasonal trail guide
 - prepare taxidermic mounts

Administrative Duties

- Complete a visual impressions report of grounds, trails, and exhibits
- Interview each staff member for practice in interviewing and to learn about each staff member's job
- Assist staff in planning seasonal general public programs
- Attend a meeting of the center's not-for-profit support organization
- Care for live animals
- Check trails and exhibits, update program announcements
- Survey nest box use
- Perform other duties as assigned by environmental education center staff
- Complete an evaluation of the Naturalist Internship Program

Expectations

- Maintain a neat and orderly work area and shared living quarters
- Represent the NYSDEC in a professional manner, including dress and attitude

Workday/Living Arrangements/Compensation

Normal workdays are 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM. Monday through Friday. Some weekend and evening work required with compensatory time off. Each center provides housing, with fully equipped kitchen, furnished living room and private bedroom. Interns receive a stipend of \$275 per week.

To Apply

Request an application form from one of the centers or fill out one from the NYSDEC web site: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1829.html.

Submit completed application (form, resume, personal statement and list of references) to your desired location:

Naturalist Internship Program

Five Rivers EE Center
 56 Game Farm Road
 Delmar, NY 12054
 Email: 5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us
 P: 518-475-0291
 F: 518-475-0293

Naturalist Internship Program

Reinstein Woods EE Center
 93 Honorine Drive
 Depew, NY 14043
 Email: rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us
 P: 716-683-5959
 F: 716-686-0210

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Public Affairs and Education



Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

56 Game Farm Road

Delmar, NY 12054

Phone: 518-475-0291 / Fax: 518-475-0293

E-mail: 5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1835.html

Location

Five Rivers is in eastern New York, seven miles southwest of Albany, off Route 443 in Delmar, a rural/suburban area close to the Capital District in Albany County. Five Rivers has a small professional staff and broad-based community support. Over one hundred volunteers add greatly to the center's effectiveness.

Description

Five Rivers' 455 acres have a wonderful diversity of habitats. A hemlock-shaded forest stream, wide expanses of open meadow, and many ponds serve as magnets for wildlife. Frequent beaver and deer activity is observed and over 225 species of birds have been sighted at the center.

Being near a major population area, over 100,000 visitors come to the center annually. Five Rivers provides two-hour guided lessons spring, winter, and fall, to thousands of elementary school children. Five Rivers staff also work extensively with teachers, providing workshops, consultations on developing school environmental sites, and providing a vast array of teacher loan kits and other materials for use in the classroom. Five Rivers also offers a wide range of public programs on weekends and evenings, from night walks to early morning bird walks.

The Five Rivers Intern

The duties of an intern vary somewhat with the season. However in each season, an intern would be responsible for observing classes, attending training sessions, and working with students in the outdoors.

In spring and fall, interns would be most heavily involved with the school program, teaching a wide range of environmental education classes to students. In winter, interns teach classes on snowshoeing and on the art and science of maple sugaring. Summer is actually the least busy time in terms of teaching. Interns are involved with groups of families during the family nature program, senior citizen programs, and a series of public nature walks.

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Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center

93 Honorine Drive

Depew, NY 14043

Phone: 716-683-5959 / Fax: 716-686-0210

E-mail: rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1837.html

Location

Reinstein Woods is located in western New York, approximately 20 minutes from downtown Buffalo and 10 minutes from Interstate 90 in Cheektowaga, NY.

Description

The environmental education center is located at the Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, a unique 292-acre complex of forests, ponds, and wetlands surrounded by suburban development. Often referred to as Buffalo's Backyard Wilderness, Reinstein Woods includes 19 ponds and wetlands created by a man-made system of dams, approximately 76 acres of mature Beech-Maple forest, and the largest American beech tree in New York state. Other important habitats include immature forests, conifer plantations, vernal pools, shrub swamp and wet meadow.

Reinstein Woods is one of the best places to easily see wildlife in western New York. Great blue herons, beaver, deer, mink, snapping turtles, pileated woodpeckers, wood ducks, frogs and many other wildlife species are often observable.

A 4,900 square foot education center opened in April 2007. The center, a green building, features exhibits, a library, a classroom, nature viewing, meeting rooms, and offices. Currently, there are three miles of self-guided interpretive trails at Reinstein Woods, with pamphlets or signs to help visitors enjoy nature at their own pace.

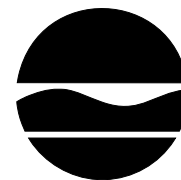
Seasonal nature programs are offered year-round on a variety of topics, such as spring wildflowers, bird watching, snowshoeing, stroller struts, and full moon walks.

The Reinstein Woods Intern

The duties of the intern vary throughout the year. Interns would be responsible for such tasks as leading tours for the public and school groups, trail monitoring, developing school lessons, developing exhibits, contributing to the quarterly newsletter, performing building/phone duty, light office work, database maintenance for library materials, and other relevant research. All interns complete a major project which can be composed of the duties listed above or arranged with the supervisor.

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NATURALIST INTERN APPLICATION

Contact Information

Name: _____

Sex: M F

Address: _____

Are you over 18 years of age? Y N

E-mail: _____

I will be at this location until _____

Phone Number: _____

Best time to be reached _____

Internship Choice and Availability

Location of internship desired (number in order of preference)

___ Five Rivers EEC, Delmar, NY

___ Reinstein Woods EEC, Depew, NY

Seasons Available (number the seasons you are available in order of preference and fill in the year):

___ January-March [20__]

___ Mid-June-August [20__]

___ April-June [20__]

___ September-November [20__]

Required Information

Current Resume

Please include:

- Education and work history
- List pertinent college courses
- Other notable experiences
- Hobbies, interests, skills

Personal Statement

How will you benefit from this program? Include career goals, interests, environmental concerns, etc.

References

Please include the name, email address, and phone number for a professor or a supervisor and a personal reference.

Please return applications at least four (4) months in advance of desired season, if possible. Your application must include the completed form (or the information it contains in a Word document), your current resume, your personal statement, and list of references. Please submit it in its entirety to your desired location.

Signature _____

Date _____