Internship Description
Boise National Forest
Conservation Education Resources Assistant
Address: 1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200
Boise, ID 83709

Position Description:
The Boise National Forest is the Capitol City Forest and the gateway to many National Forests in Idaho. The Payette River and Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byways transect through the Forest providing access to the Boise, Payette, Salmon-Challis National Forests and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. There are multiple educational and interpretive opportunities that have not been fully staffed for the last few years.

Term Length:
July-December (exact start/ end dates are dependent on date of hire and will be based on the 960 required hours of service).

Assignments for this intern during their entire experience include:

- Develop interpretive fire information to be posted in the middle of the Pioneer Fire area located at the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation Yurts.
- Assist with environmental education activities including WOW! (Wild Outdoor Week) and New Shoots partnership programs to connect underserved youth with the Forest and the outdoors.
- Create a template for use in conveying information on wildlife at developed recreation kiosks and/or rentals on the Forest and then develop 1-4 topics for the Forest’s use relevant to the site - topics could include:
  - Use of structures by bats or other wildlife at administrative sites.
  - Pollinator identification at trailheads.
  - Planting preferred native flowering shrubs for hummingbirds at ranger stations with pollinator gardens.
  - Cautions for dogs in wolf country at trailheads/maybe campgrounds, birds in pipes at developed sites with structures.
  - Protecting bears by keeping a clean camp minimizing their presence.
  - Plight of the western monarch.
  - The relationship between whitebark pine and Clark’s nutcrackers at developed sites and trails in whitebark pine habitat, etc.
- Assist the interagency Visitor Center (VC) and evaluate the VC for informative display improvements.
- Develop a Boise National Forest historical calendar.
- Assist with social media topics and develop the Boise NF webpage to increase the amount of meaningful information about the wildlife resources on the Forest and tips visitors may be interested in for their own home/yard ideas.
  - Examples: highlight Forest efforts to screen pipes to protect birds, provide ideas for forest visitors to improve nature in their backyard (i.e., pollinator gardening tips, building “bug hotels,” etc.), discuss wolverines on the Forest, and connect web users with resources such as eBird or iNaturalist to participate in citizen science data collection tools which engage users in exploring the nature around them
- Develop a microfilament education outreach plan for Boise NF docks and developed recreation sites along reservoirs (i.e., Deadwood, Arrowrock, Anderson Ranch, Sagehen), rivers (i.e., South Fork Boise River), and lakes (i.e., Bull Trout, Warm Lake) or other fishing spots as appropriate (i.e., Lowman Ponds).
- Develop a relationship with the Idaho Master Naturalist group.
  - Example projects master naturalists could participate in include: habitat surveys in restored sagebrush habitat on the Mountain Home RD, collection and release of biological control insects for invasive species treatment, and development of bird lists for recreation sites to attract and engage visitors using those sites and to post on the website
- Develop interpretive information needs identified in the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Highway Interpretive Plan.

**Qualifications:**
- A background in education or interpretation.
  - Formal or informal experience in teaching or public programming in history, wildlife biology, natural resources or a related field preferred.
- Upper level or recent college graduate.
- Driver’s license required.
- Strongly prefer experience developing and conducting inquiry-based programs.
- Prefer experience correlating programs with national and state educational standards.
- Prefer experience working with the general public and children in indoor and outdoor settings.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent organizational and computer skills.
- An independent, self-motivated, creative, and resourceful individual able to work with diverse groups of people.

**Program Benefits**
- NYC will provide RA a prorated monthly stipend of $9660/ $402.50 per week along with health care coverage, workers' compensation and FICA.

- Housing is not provided.

**Position Requirements**

- A desire to serve and promote public land stewardship and an ethic of service.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations such as: project partner(s), colleagues, community volunteers, youth and the general public.
- A commitment to the goals of the U.S. Forest Service.
- A cooperative manner and the ability to serve as part of a team.
- The ability to work independently.
- A willingness to ask questions for clarification and job completion.
- Work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a college degree, or near completion.
- Regular and reliable attendance and dependability.

**About the Boise National Forest**

The Boise National Forest's vast landscape spans over 2.5 million acres of diverse forest and grassland. Located northeast of Idaho’s capital city, Boise, recreationists can explore the North Fork Payette River Canyon at 2,800 feet in elevation to Trinity Mountain reaching nearly 10,000 feet. The Forest has an estimated 9,600 miles of perennial and intermittent streams, and 15,400 acres of lakes and reservoirs. Major river systems on the Forest are the Salmon, Payette and Boise and features the Payette River and Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byways. Federally Listed species on the Forest include Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. There is designated critical habitat on the Forest for these species. Other native species of concern include redband trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The Forest has a rich culture history from indigenous people, Chinese inhabitants, miners and loggers who laid the foundation for western settlement. Most of the land supports an evergreen forest that includes pure or mixed stands of ponderosa pine, grand fir, Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. The Forest contains a number of wildlife species, such as black bear, wolves, bald eagles, flammulated owls, mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk, etc. Vegetation and fuels management are the Forest’s focus improving forest health for many species. Recreation, grazing, mining and a diversity of special uses occur on the Forest. Whether you choose to explore any of more than 500 trails, or cool off in one of over 250 lakes and reservoirs, the Boise National Forest is truly an outdoor enthusiast’s dream!