

# 2012 NYC SPRING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

## PARKS & RECREATION-017

City Parks Foundation/Environmental Education  
1234 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10029

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### **AGENCY DESCRIPTION**

Parks & Recreation is the steward of more than 29,000 acres of land — 14 percent of New York City — including more than 5,000 individual properties ranging from Yankee Stadium and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds; we manage five major stadia, 600 tennis courts, 66 public pools, 51 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 14 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches; we care for 800 monuments and 23 historic house museums; we look after 600,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. We are New York City's principal provider of athletic facilities. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.

The work of the agency goes far beyond the maintenance of 14% of New York City's land. Parks is the City's leading programmer of cultural, athletic and social activities, including nature walks, concerts, learn-to-swim classes, sports clinics, historic house tours, and much more. Each year Parks hosts annual events such as the WinterJam, Adventures NYC, the Pumpkin Festival and several others. In addition, Parks produces many special events, including concerts and movie premieres. In the summer, Parks' busiest season, the agency organizes free carnivals and concerts, and sends mobile recreation vans to travel throughout the five boroughs providing free rental equipment for skating, baseball, and miniature golf.

The Parks Commissioner is appointed by the Mayor to oversee and direct the work of the agency. The Commissioner appoints Deputy Commissioners, Borough Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners who are responsible for managing the agency's divisions. These senior officials supervise the work of thousands of Parks employees. They work with elected officials to complete capital improvements for parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers. They work with the private sector to sponsor free public events. They get the community involved in Parks through volunteer initiatives and educational and athletic programming in recreation and nature centers. They prepare Parks' budget and monitor the work of Parks' ice-skating rinks, golf courses and other concessions.

### **UNIT DESCRIPTION**

City Parks Foundation's (CPF) education department connects teachers, students and families to local parks by providing hands-on programs that meet specific community needs and public educational standards. We present classroom, after school and teacher-training programs in parks, schools and Recreation Centers across New York City. CPF uses parks as outdoor classrooms where students can learn core subjects and important life, critical-thinking and decision-making skills while discovering the natural world that exists right in their neighborhoods. Annually, our programs reach 7,500 students and community members and 600 teachers.

### **POSITION TITLE**

CPF Environmental Education Intern

### **INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

CPF Education targets Title 1 schools in low-income and remote communities throughout the five boroughs and encourages schools to select special needs and bilingual/dual language programs to participate in our programs. Teacher training, technical assistance, and material resources are seamlessly interwoven into the program to ensure that educators will reproduce lessons throughout their career. CPF Education's inquiry-based model focuses on creating local, meaningful and relevant lessons that connect larger global issues to our communities.

School & Teacher Training Programs that will host interns:

- Seeds to Trees introduces science and nature in the urban environment through classroom activities and field experiences where children meet wildlife in a natural habitat. Our longest-running program, Seeds to Trees provides teachers with educational resources and in-depth training that enables them to incorporate ecological lessons into the basic curriculum. Over 65 teachers and 1,750 students in grades 1st-4th and 6th-7th grades

participate annually. Seeds to Trees also supports early childhood development programs with a vivid sensory exploration that enriches students' introduction to nature.

- Learning Gardens brings garden-based learning to New York City schoolchildren and community members. Using park gardens, we present engaging interdisciplinary lessons in core subjects. Students in grades pre-K through 8 and their teachers receive learning materials, curricula, and tools to enhance their use of the gardens.

- Coastal Classroom sparks learning through water-based lessons to students in 4th-12th grades along the Queens Waterfront and Kaiser Park, Coney Island to introduce marine environments, support local estuary restoration efforts and reinforce key environmental concepts.

- Green Girls Summer Institute trains middle-school girls on environmental and conservation issues through intensive experiences during the month of July. Green Girls fosters environmental stewardship, academic success and careers in the sciences. Field experiences at natural areas and visits to cultural institutions frame participants' understanding of relevant issues.

Mondays are usually administrative days for our teaching staff. Interns could work with a variety of programs, or focus on one program. Interns could also work with educators to deliver public programs held on weekends. Interns will work with CPF Education teachers on lesson preparation, and travel with educators to schools or outdoor teaching sites to teach a variety of rotating lessons. In the summer lessons are taught entirely outdoors with school summer programs, camps, organizations, and adult learners (from special need adults to the elderly). Interns will support the CPF Education teacher in lesson delivery by working with small groups on targeted activities or providing back-up on select activities. Interns will also work on independent projects related to evaluation, lesson or activity development, outreach or other areas that interest interns. They will work closely with a cadre of trained CPF teachers and meet periodically with the director.

Interns will gain in-depth understanding of interdisciplinary and inquiry-based curricula aligned with mandated standards, while being exposed to schools and a wealth of natural resources throughout the five boroughs. In addition, interns will learn about program implementation and the non-profit sector.

## **QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY**

Interns must be college or graduate students

Interns must have an interest in non-traditional educational settings using interactive methods

Excellent inter-personal and communication skills a must

Ability to work with diverse students and low income communities as well as independently

Versatility, resourcefulness and creativity required

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please email cover letter and resume to [Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov)

## **SALARY RANGE**

Unpaid

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS**

1-3 days per week