

Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist Intern (Summer 2024)

Grow your own skills and build experiences that will better enable you to impart curiosity, knowledge, and a sense of stewardship with visitors and groups both local and from around the world. The **Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist Intern** will co-lead multi-day, overnight field studies for educational groups of all ages at the semi-rustic and semi-remote Peterson Bay Field Station (PBFS). This person will also lead interpretive natural history programs for small but varied groups of visitors. They will participate in community based monitoring projects such as harmful algal bloom monitoring, sea star surveys, and phenology studies. Field sites feature rocky intertidal areas of outstanding diversity, a coastal forest trail system, and salt and freshwater wetlands. The Naturalist Intern will work alongside the PBFS Naturalists, the PBFS Coordinator, CACS Program Director, and other naturalist educators to learn together about best practices in experiential, place-based interpretation and education and to gain knowledge of Alaskan coastal ecology.



Training & Mentorship

- Participate in paid naturalist training at the Peterson Bay Field Station and in Homer at the start of the summer, which will include training on natural sciences, Alaska Native cultures, and nature interpretation.
- Opportunities throughout the summer for paid professional development, such as Nature-Based Art, Invasive Species Monitoring, Protective Factors for Youth or Youth Mental Health First Aid, etc.

Core Duties:

- Co-lead day and overnight coastal ecology and service learning programs for student groups and families. Lead age-appropriate, place-based educational activities. Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive environment for all participants.
- Assist with CACS camps for youth and families, including development and implementation of programming, evening activities, meal planning and preparation, chaperoning of participants, organization of supplies, documenting with photos/video, and submitting written feedback on the camp.
- Plan and lead engaging and informative natural history day tours for adults and families, featuring guided exploration of the beach and forest and introductions to Alaska Native history and culture.
- Work cooperatively with group leads, chaperones, and other staff to provide high-quality experiences for participants. Administer basic first aid and comfort anxious, homesick or otherwise uncomfortable participants.
- Facilitate group transitions in the Homer Harbor and orient groups to Peterson Bay Field Station.
- Live on-site at the Peterson Bay Field Station for 3-7 days per week. This is a semi-remote location, only accessible by boat. Water taxi transportation is provided at the beginning and end of the work week.
- Maintain CACS program supplies, assist with upkeep of intertidal touch tanks, and perform routine facility and trail maintenance at the Peterson Bay Field Station, including trail clearing, troubleshooting water system problems, and maintenance of the composting toilets.
- Provide photos for social media/advertising and assist with participant evaluations of programs (as needed).

- Develop and complete a project of interest to both the intern and CACS with a focus on citizen monitoring, research, education, or interpretation.

Qualifications

- Creativity, curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.
- Experience or demonstrated desire to work with youth and adults in outdoor settings.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative environment and live and work in a semi-remote location with visiting groups and other naturalists.
- Willingness to learn on the job and adapt to changing circumstances (such as weather, group needs, etc.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about basic intertidal, marine, and forest ecology, and Alaska Native cultures, particularly Dena'ina and Sugpiaq/Alutiiq ethnobotany and land stewardship.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate complex science concepts, and make people feel welcome.
- Commitment to CACS's work towards justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in our programs, and to our vision of healthy ecosystems, engaged and connected communities, and inspired environmental stewards.
- Ability to receive and give direction and feedback on a variety of topics.
- Demonstrated good judgment and experience with risk management in challenging settings, including first aid and CPR certification (with preference for Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification).
- We are a staff that works as a team and adapts to our communities' needs; therefore this position may work on additional programs and duties as mutually agreed upon.

We've left our list of desired qualifications flexible in recognition of the many forms of knowledge and experience that can exist both within and outside of typical employment or academic pathways. If you are passionate about the work and think you could do it well, please apply!

A Little More About Our Organization (and our Equal Opportunity Employer Statement)

We are a small but mighty non-profit made up of 10-30 staff. We are enthusiastic about the natural world, and care for each other with attention, creativity, and compassion. [Learn more about our organization here](#). CACS recruits, employs, trains, compensates and promotes regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, class, veteran status and other protected status as required by law. We also recognize that the field of environmental education has long excluded Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as well as people from working class backgrounds, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. We know that the land on which we now teach has long been and continues to be stewarded by Alaska Native peoples, particularly the Sugpiaq and Dena'ina. We believe that these communities must be centered in the work we do and that environmental education will be stronger and richer with more diverse perspectives. We welcome your unique skills, cultural perspectives, and strengths and recognize how they benefit our community. We strongly encourage people with these identities or who are members of other historically excluded communities to apply for positions with CACS. You are welcomed to self-identify in your cover letter, if you feel comfortable doing so. Please contact Katie Gavenus (katieg@akcoastalstudies.org, 907-235-1974) with any questions or concerns.