

Discovery Southeast

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Summer Camp Outdoor Leader

Location: Juneau (Dzantik'i Heeni), AK

Who We Are:

For over 30 years, Discovery Southeast's education and exploration programs have deepened Southeast Alaskans' connection with nature in Lingít Aaní, the traditional lands of the Áak'w & T'aakú Kwáan. We are a regional non-profit started by outdoor leaders in Southeast Alaska to ensure that local residents, particularly children, experience the outstanding natural areas that travelers from around the world come to visit. Today, with many of those same founders still involved, our programs teach children to experience, be comfortable in, and explore nature with a field-based, hands-on approach. We strive to reach all Juneau youth, particularly those who might not otherwise be introduced to the outdoors at a young age. We aim to recruit, develop, and retain staff who bring traditional ecological knowledge, diverse backgrounds, and a mindset of curiosity about the complete history of Southeast Alaska.

Description and Goals of Assignment:

The ACF Intern will spend a significant amount of their time in the field, co-leading nature-based lessons and activities for groups of approximately 12 elementary age children aged 3-15. This is part of Discovery Southeast's hands-on nature education summer camp, Outdoor Explorers. The adventure-filled, week-long day camp introduces children to Juneau's natural areas through outdoor exploration, traditional ecological knowledge, natural history, science based education, arts, and outdoor games and activities. The intern will spend another, smaller, portion of their time working with administrative staff on outreach, communication and development projects for the organization. This will help to build connections within the community, as well as provide the intern with a better understanding of the day to day operation and management of a small, local nonprofit.

Education:

The intern will work directly with field groups for most weeks of their summer (5 days/week, ~40 hrs), co-leading hands-on nature education lessons and activities with the support of field naturalists. Interns will receive training and experience in inquiry based, hands-on field leadership as well as in Southeast Alaska cultural and natural history, which they can use to develop unique lessons that tie in with each week's theme. The intern will also receive training and support in working with groups of kids to support an inclusive community at camp. The intern will have office time and access to a wide variety of physical and digital resources to help plan the adventures and activities for each week of camp, in addition to support and direction from Discovery Southeast resident naturalists.

Organization:

The intern may help the summer camp coordinator to contact summer camp families, contractors, connect with field staff, and collect and post photos each week of camp. In addition to weekly summer camp organizational tasks, the intern will work with the Executive Director on member outreach, in designing a kid-made thank you card for our donors, and writing a grant report at the end of the summer. The intern will also be encouraged and supported in developing their own project for the organization, should they choose to, like a community event or a project/lesson for the youth.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Prepare and facilitate fun engaging lessons, games, and activities with a focus on outdoor skills, natural history, and nature education;
- Provide support for, and ensure the physical and emotional safety and well being of a group of up to 13 children;
- Emphasize safety, risk management, good judgment, positive group interaction, and personal leadership;
- Take responsibility for some administrative communications with organization membership as well as families involved in summer camp.
- Participate in all staff training and development.
- Participate in weekly staff meetings and maintain open lines of communication with co-leaders and the summer camp coordinator
- Perform weekly duties including: restocking supplies, cleaning the van, and other tasks as necessary.

Intern Qualifications:

- Enthusiasm for our goal of providing children formative experiences outdoors and a strong connection with nature and each other.
- Experience and interest in working with preschool-middle school aged children, particularly in group, or outdoor education settings.
- Experience in, and comfort with the outdoors, such as guiding, backcountry travel, or natural history interpretation.
- Interest in learning and educating about cultural and natural history, science-based education, curiosity-led exploration, and nature games and activities.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills; ability to work on a team and to create a welcoming environment to all participants.
- Basic competence with office software ranging from word processing to image editing.
- Ability to maintain energy throughout an 8-hour day, which could include: hiking up to 6 miles per day, carrying extra gear in daypack, kayaking, and other outdoor activities, oftentimes in wet weather.
- First Aid and Child/Infant CPR certification (or higher) by start of employment.
- Comfort driving a 15 passenger van desired (not required)