



Highlands Center Naturalist Internship Program

I. Mission: To support teen education of science and nature while developing real-life career skills for fields in informal education, social services, and natural resource management.

II. Objectives - For Naturalist Interns to:

- * Develop leadership skills and gain volunteer experience that encourages career choices in elementary education, nature interpretation, or natural resource management.
- * Explore, investigate, and begin to interpret the natural world alongside trained professionals.
- * Begin to develop their understanding of the ecology, natural and cultural history of the Arizona Highlands.
- * Generate the ability to communicate their knowledge developed to youth within our community.

III. Requirements - Applicants to the Internship Program need:

- * To have an interest in assisting in the generation of awareness and wonder of science and nature for their peers and local youth.
- * Complete 30 hours of program volunteer service alongside Highlands Center Program Staff from September 2016 through April 2017.
- * Attend a week long Intern Training March 13-17, 2017 in addition to Summer Camp Training May 30, 2017 – June 2, 2017.
- * Assist Highlands Center Program Staff with at least two weeks of the 2017 Summer Camps during the months of June and July of 2017.

IV. Qualifications

- * Enthusiasm, interest, sense of fun and wonder
- * Interest in science and nature
- * Good communication skills
- * Willingness to learn and desire to share knowledge with others
- * Self-motivated and independent learner
- * Between the ages of 15-17 at the time of application.
- * Have transportation available to the Highlands Center Lynx Lake Site through the duration of the internship program.
- * Physically able to hike 2 or more miles with a group and over strenuous trail conditions (i.e. rocky, hilly, loose, wet, etc.) while carrying a pack and gear.
- * Availability to meet minimum requirements (stated above)
- * CPR/First Aid certified (provided by the Highlands Center, session to be arranged)

V. Role of Naturalist Intern

- * Assist as a volunteer throughout the year during Family and Kids Programs (e.g. Halloween Happening, Schoolyard Habitat Program, and Special Programs).
- * Develop real-life work skills (e.g. time management, communication, program development, lesson writing, and leadership skills)
- * Develop skills for behavioral and risk management
- * Co-lead Summer Camps alongside Highlands Center Program Staff.

VI. Completion: Students completing all requirements will receive a \$400 stipend.

VII. Volunteering: Volunteer hours may be fulfilled through approved programs defined by the Highlands Center's Education department. These volunteer hours will not only enhance real-life career skills but also assist Naturalist Interns to develop their content knowledge and management practices in preparation for Co-leading the Summer Camps.

X. Terms of acceptance

No applicant will be considered without completion of the application and the interview process.

The Highlands Center reserves the right to change its calendar, withdraw or modify a course or substitute instructors at any time. It also reserves the right to require the withdrawals of any student whose conduct is antithetical to the program or the mission of the Highlands Center, or if there are personal conflicts or physical limitations preventing the intern from fulfilling program requirements.

XI. Application Process

Applications will be required for all students of the Naturalist Internship Program. Applicants will go through an interview process to ensure that all participants have a clear understanding of the requirements of the program. Applicants will be selected through a committee.

XII. Attendance Policy

If a participant does not complete at least 30 hours of approved volunteer service and the scheduled weeks of Intern Training and Camp training they will not be eligible as a co-leader during the Summer Camps and will not receive the \$400 stipend.