

***CITYPARKS EDUCATION* FIELD PLACEMENT & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2012**

Date: Ongoing

Time Commitment: 1-3 days per week (blocks of time—at least full morning or afternoon during school hours)

Overview

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.

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 their 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.

CPF Education targets Title 1 schools in low-income and remote communities throughout the five boroughs. CPF encourage 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. Pre and post-tests are administered and aggregated annually to gauge gains and inform program modification. CPF Education's

inquiry-based model focuses on creating local, meaningful and relevant lessons for its participants to connect larger global issues to the communities where we work.

Fall Semester

- 1-3 days per week. 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, although there are few in the fall.
- 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. Lessons are taught outdoors during warm weather and then migrate into the classroom setting during cold weather months. 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.
- Participate in full day formal teacher training—public school teachers that partner with us on our programs—sessions held in the fall.
- Work on independent projects related to evaluation, lesson or activity development, outreach or other areas that interest interns.
- Interns would work closely with a cadre of trained *CPF* teachers and meet periodically with the director of education.
- 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.

Spring Semester

- Same as above, with some differences: (1) formal teacher workshops are usually only held in the fall; (2) there are more public, weekend events during the late spring.

Summer

- Lessons are taught entirely outdoors with school summer programs, camps, organizations, and adult learners (from special need adults to the elderly).
- *Seeds to Trees* does not operate during the summer.

Location:

CPF Education is based at 1234 Fifth Avenue, on the corner of 104th Street (across from Central Park). Staff meet or end their day at the office, but travel throughout the city to deliver programs. Interns might have to meet staff onsite at specific schools or parks.

Interested candidates should email *cover letter* and *resume* to: education@CityParksFoundation.org or send via regular mail to:

Education Search
City Parks Foundation
1234 Fifth Avenue, Room 232
New York, NY 10029.

No calls or faxes, please.