

2014 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-050

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AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation manages 14 percent of the land in New York City. These assets range from playgrounds and large parks, to tranquil wooded areas and over 14 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as vital meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation – but also as critical engines for economic growth and development.

The past decade has seen a remarkable expansion of this system, with new parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, and amenities opening across the five boroughs. The Bronx River was transformed from an urban dumping ground into a waterway that welcomes kayakers and has gleaming new parks dotting its shoreline. In Queens, Elmhurst Park flourishes where huge gas tanks once stood. In Manhattan, the High Line is a unique open space that brings much needed parkland to the Chelsea community. Brooklyn's once-abandoned industrial waterfront is revitalized with the creation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, Transmitter, and Bushwick Inlet Parks. On Staten Island, Freshkills will cover 2,200 acres of former landfill with lush rolling hills and winding streams. And through PlaNYC, we are ensuring a greener and more sustainable city for future generations. NYC Parks has built new regional parks, restored abandoned Works Progress Administration-era facilities such as McCarren Pool, greened asphalt traffic medians, converted part-time schoolyards into full-time public playgrounds, and has already planted more than 800,000 trees toward our goal of one million.

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 WinterJam, Adventures NYC, and the Pumpkin Festival. In addition, Parks produces many special events, concerts and movie premieres, as well as 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 (CPF) is the only independent, non-profit organization to offer park programs throughout the five boroughs of New York City. CPF works in over 700 parks citywide, presenting a broad range of free arts, sports and education programs and helping over 600,000 citizens to support their parks on a local level.

CPF's Education Department has operated interdisciplinary environmental education programs in schools and parks since 1992. Coastal Classroom focuses on coastal ecology, water quality, urban waterfront restoration and preservation in Halletts Cove, Long Island City (Queens) and in Kaiser Park, Coney Island (Brooklyn). This summer, Coastal Classroom is launching a new program model, which engages middle school students in up to seven weeks of training. Throughout July, summer camps visit weekly for science and service learning, followed by a three-week Summer Institute in August. Throughout the summer, site-specific inquiry-based lessons will provide stimulating and meaningful learning experiences for youth in their own community.

POSITION TITLE

City Parks Foundation Coastal Classroom Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

CPF has developed this internship opportunity for up to four talented graduate students or recent college graduates to gain hands-on experience and explore the environmental education sector while helping to promote environmental stewardship of our waterways and coastal area. Internships will provide an opportunities for individuals to function in myriad roles and to inform program direction and vision.

Responsibilities

- Directly supports and assists program manager and seasonal educator, primarily on site.
- Help deliver sequential, developmentally appropriate lessons for diverse participants, primarily middle school youth.
- Support the lead marine educator's connections with parks personnel and community members.
- Provide logistical support and complete general administrative duties, as needed.

- Create and maintain an ongoing blog for the CPF website and support the gathering of materials and anecdotes for our Facebook page. Other social marketing support activities as appropriate will also be important functions.
- Assist with data collection and recordkeeping.
- Help maintain, repair and protect tools and equipment, including waders, nets, buckets, water quality kits and other gear.
- Help set-up and break-down often heavy equipment and other physically demanding tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- Knowledge of science education, marine ecology, marine biology, environmental science, or related field, or pursuit of a degree in one or more of these areas of study.
- Basic knowledge of marine ecosystems, marine life, data collection, and data analysis.
- Eager to learn
- Interest in working with middle school youth from low-income communities.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team essential.
- Versatility, resourcefulness and creativity required (contagious enthusiasm would be great).
- Willingness to work outdoors from June-August in hot/sometimes uncomfortable weather conditions (manual labor necessary).
- Commitment to Coastal Classroom's mission.

Interested candidates should email

1. Resume
2. 1 page *cover letter* that addresses the following:
 - Interest in marine/aquatic environments and general career goals.
 - Relevant experience that would support their role.
 - Skills set, aptitudes and talents that qualify you for this fellowship.
 - Availability for an in-person interview. If not, we will try to schedule phone interviews.
 - What you hope to gain from this experience.
 - Two professional or academic reference (names, affiliations, and phone numbers)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please email cover letter and resume to Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid