

2015 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-060

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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

The Greenbelt Environmental Education Department located at High Rock Park in Staten Island, New York, offers a diverse array of environmental education programs for school groups, Scouts, summer campers and the general public, while development workshops for educators and service learning opportunities for college students are also a priority. Our programs are outdoors and hands-on, encouraging participants to understand and appreciate the natural world. The mission of the education department is to educate citizens about the environment, raise awareness of environmental issues, and foster a community of stewardship for the environment and the Greenbelt.

POSITION TITLE

Greenbelt Summer Day Camp Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The summer intern will be a Head Counselor for the Greenbelt Summer Day Camp at High Rock Park. Our intern will be assigned to teach hands-on environmental and outdoor education to children ages 7 to 13. Our intern will...

- Prepare for, lead and supervise a group of 10 to 12 campers in daily camp activities such as nature interpretation, hikes, team building games, crafts, etc.
- Be responsible for taking camp attendance daily, securing materials needed for indoor and outdoor activities, and the safety of the campers at all times.
- Keep Camp Director abreast of daily activities, hike and outdoor activity locations, issues or concerns regarding campers assigned to the group
- Direct junior counselors and volunteers in daily camp prep, execution of activities and clean-up
- Be a role model to junior counselors, volunteers, and campers alike

In the process of preparing for camp activities, our intern will:

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- Learn and explore the natural areas of the Greenbelt
- Hike many of the Greenbelt's 36 miles of trails
- Become familiar with the plants & animals that live in our, forest, creeks, ponds, soil and trees
- Learn how to teach children in an informal setting

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

The following is a list of **Requirements** for this position:

- Enrolled in college
- Available Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 1:30 pm
- Able to work outdoors, in a forest setting
- Comfortable hiking, pond dipping, insect digging, etc., occasionally in adverse weather conditions
- Good group management and communication skills, especially with children and young adults
- Able to keep campers engaged and learning
- Good time management skills and interpersonal skills including ability to relate to camp guardians
- Able to lead hikes of all levels as well as team-building activities
- Be respectful and courteous with staff, campers and parents

Below is a list of *Preferred* skills:

- Experience and interest in working with children
- Knowledge of and interest in any of the following areas: natural sciences, education, child development, and stewardship
- Knowledge of northeastern plants and animals species and urban ecology a plus
- Familiarity with the Greenbelt parks and its trail system, or willingness to learn
- Experienced hikers, naturalists, and nature lovers
- Certification in Community CPR & First Aid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The intern selected will be required to pass a background check since they will be working directly with children. An in-person interview with the camp director prior to May 31 is required.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid