

NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2008

PARKS & RECREATION-015

City Parks Foundation Education Internship
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AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Parks and Recreation is a public agency which employs over 4,000 employees (11,000 at the summer peak) Its principal mission is to keep the parks, playgrounds, and sitting areas clean and safe, while developing the City's recreational opportunities by offering quality facilities, programs, and events to meet the needs of all New Yorkers.

Parks & Recreation is the steward of more than 29,000 acres of land — 14 percent of New York City — including more than 4,000 individual properties ranging from Yankee Stadium and Central Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds; we manage four major stadia, 550 tennis courts, 54 public pools, 48 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 13 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches; we care for 1,200 monuments and 22 historic house museums; we look after 600,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. We are New York City's principal provider of athletic facilities. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.

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 the Easter Eggstravaganza, the Great Halloween Party, the Bocce and Beach Volleyball Tournaments, and Green-Up Day. In addition, Parks produces many special events, including concerts and movie premieres. In the summer, Parks' busiest season, the agency organizes free carnivals and concerts, and sends mobile recreation vans to travel throughout the five boroughs 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. The Education Department, founded in 1993, presents a wide range of programs targeted to children, youth, and educators in a variety of settings, including parks, recreation centers, public schools, and other community organizations

POSITION TITLE

Education Intern for City Parks Foundation

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

CityParks Education offers experiential education programs for children, youth, and community members, including:

- Learning Gardens - summer work in this program consists of lessons and workshops that are taught at garden locations in the Bronx, Southeast Queens and in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Groups from throughout NYC travel to one of two garden sites to perform service in the garden and participate in hands-on lessons in the natural sciences, arts, and/or literacy on weekdays. On weekends, each site hosts intergenerational community events or "Family Days" where locals can visit and tend to the gardens or enjoy a variety of stimulating, hands-on activities.

- Green Girls Summer Institute - a three-week intensive institute in July focuses on environmental education for young women where each day is comprised of diverse outdoor learning experiences.
- Coastal Classroom - this spring and summer program raises environmental awareness and helps develop stewardship practices through water education, research projects, and survey participation on the Queens Waterfront.

An Education Department intern would perform hands-on work, often outdoors (sometimes in rainy and/or very hot weather), assisting educators in lesson preparation and delivery, transporting materials, and working with program participants. The person would need to be willing to do hard work which is also, at times, physically challenging. In return, the intern would get a wide range of rewarding work experience – from working with children/youth and families to preparing materials for community events – and will work with a great team of educators. CityParks Education tailors internships to meet the needs of graduate and undergraduate students and ensure a substantive and unique experience.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

- ☐ Interest in teaching in non-traditional educational settings using interactive methods.
- ☐ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- ☐ Ability to work with diverse students and low-income communities.
- ☐ Ability to work independently and represent the organization at off-site setting.
- ☐ Versatility, resourcefulness and creativity required.
- ☐ Interest in working in environmental education programs

APPLICATION PROCESS

Send your cover letter and resume to Leslie Nusblatt see email address above.

SALARY RANGE

Unpaid and/or school credit depending on school requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COMMENTS