

NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2008

PARKS & RECREATION-042

Bronx River Alliance Education Intern
One Bronx River Parkway
Bronx, NY 10462

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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

The Bronx River Alliance is a partnership of more than 100 organizations that acts as a coordinated voice for the river. The Alliance works collaboratively with public and private partners to protect, improve, and restore the Bronx River corridor and greenway so that they can be healthy ecological, recreational, educational, and economic resources for the Bronx communities through which the river flows.

Since the founding of the Bronx River Alliance in 2001, we have focused on three aims. One is to restore and protect the Bronx River. A second is to create a continuous Bronx River Greenway along the eight-mile stretch of the river in New York City. And the third aim, interwoven into every activity, is to ensure that the river, the greenway, and the very process of improving them strengthen and build resources for Bronx communities.

The Alliance is housed at the Bronx headquarters of the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and works closely with Parks & Recreation to implement four core program areas: Ecology, Education, Greenway, and Outreach and Technical Assistance. See www.bronxriver.org for further information.

POSITION TITLE

Bronx River Alliance Education Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

nyc.gov/internships

River Monitoring Intern: Assist with the Bronx River Stewards River Monitoring program. Volunteer monitors representing approximately ten different schools, organizations, and individuals monitor water quality on a weekly basis at five to nine sites along the Bronx River. These Bronx River Stewards are helping the Alliance create a set of reliable and consistently gathered data for the Bronx River and its watershed to evaluate the health of the river and to alert agencies and organizations to water quality issues as they arise.

The intern would participate in hands-on collection of water quality data, and assist the Education and Environmental Coordinators in organizing volunteers, training sessions, and the monitoring program in general. The intern would also assist with data entry and analysis and would possibly help evaluate the current monitoring database and make recommendations on improving or replacing this system.

Environmental Education Intern: Develop environmental education materials and implement educational programming. An intern with an environmental education background would assist the Education and Greenway Coordinators in developing interpretive signage in the Bronx River Forest and Soundview Park. This intern would also develop activities, such as lesson plans, to promote the use of the Bronx River as an outdoor classroom and valuable community resource. This intern would lead public walking, biking, and canoe/kayaking trips on the river.

Canoeing Program Interns: Support the Bronx River Canoeing program by helping to organize and run paddling trips, educate participants, maintain equipment and complete the administrative work necessary to offer these unique tours.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIAL SKILLS / AREAS OF STUDY

River Monitoring: Background in environmental science, biology or chemistry preferred; ability to work outdoors; basic computer skills: MS Office, Internet, email.

Environmental Education: Background in education, curriculum design, and/or the sciences; strong writing skills; ability to present to groups; basic computer skills: MS Office, Internet, email; teaching experience preferred.

Canoeing Program: Strong canoeing skills are a must; ability to present educational information to the public; ability to train participants in basic paddling skills; basic computer skills: MS Word, Excel, Internet, email. This intern should be a strong paddler, good with people, outgoing, organized, and prepared to do the outdoor and indoor work that it takes to run this popular program.

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

Please specify which educational internship interests you.