

Early Learning Intern

Corvallis Environmental Center: The Corvallis Environmental Center (CEC) is a community-based, educational non-profit that has prioritized partnerships to implement programs to address community needs since 1994. CEC's mission is to create a healthy, sustainable community. We do this through pre-K through 8th environmental education, Farm to School programs, youth leadership development, teacher training, and food security. We work in Corvallis, Oregon, and surrounding rural communities. CEC's programs include after-school programs, summer camps, a nature-based preschool in Avery Park, classroom education in partnership with the Corvallis, Albany, and Philomath School Districts, family programs and events, and a 1-acre demonstration and education garden in Starker Arts Park known as SAGE. The Corvallis Environmental Center is committed to being an inclusive organization and fully supports those demanding reform and justice. We stand with those who have been affected by violence, racism, and other forms of discrimination.

Position Description: The Corvallis Environmental Center's Avery House Nature Center focuses on early learning through nature-based education. We run the NaturePlay Preschool (for ages 3-5) M-F from 8:00 to 4:00 and our Exploradores de la Naturaleza (Bilingual NaturePlay Preschool) program (for ages 4-6) which runs T & Th from 1:00 to 4:00.

Partial day shifts are available (mornings or afternoons) or there is the option of working a full 8:00-4:30 day if your schedule allows. NaturePlay and Exploradores are child-led, play-based programs. Much of the children's time is spent actively exploring the indoor and outdoor environments and materials, creating unique works of art, and interacting with other children. Interns must be comfortable in an open-ended environment and enjoy interacting with young children. During freeplay time Interns will engage with children as they work in the various learning centers, and assist children with hand-washing, snacktime, clean-up, replenishing art materials and helping children transition from one activity to another. During outdoor adventure time, Interns will help supervise children's explorations, take part in walks throughout Avery Park and help provide information to the children about the natural world. We would prefer for Early Learning Interns to be with us for at least 2 days a week, if possible. Being bilingual is an incredible asset for the PM Niños de la Naturaleza program.

Position Responsibilities Early Learning Interns will work under the supervision of the NaturePlay Coordinator and will be expected to:

- Participate in CEC internship orientation
- Develop and commit to a work plan and schedule
- Support the needs of CEC's educational programming
- OPTIONAL: Earn academic credits– check in with advisor to see if it qualifies for credit
- OPTIONAL: Pursue your own project to contribute to the Avery House Nature Center's educational programming

Qualifications:

- Can effectively communicate with a diverse group of people (including children ages 3 and up)

- Passionate about working with students of this particular age group
- Be a creative problem solver in a high-energy environment
- Ability to pass a criminal background check
- CPR/1st Aid certified or willing to complete training
- Interest or background in environmental and/or nature-based education
- Punctual and reliable, organized, and a positive attitude!

For more information, contact our Nature Play Preschool Coordinator:
karin.gb@corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org