

Early Learning Summer Intern

Corvallis Environmental Center Background: 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 Caterpillar is an outdoor camp for children 3-5 years old. Caterpillar Camp focuses on play and exploration in an outdoor setting. Camp runs Monday - Friday from 9:30 - 1:30. Parents sign children up for individual weeks of camp, therefore each week is a different group of children.

This means that shifts for interns are available M-F 9:30 - 1:30 as your schedule allows. Caterpillar Camp is child-led and open-ended. Each day starts at the Dinosaur Bones. Children engage in freeplay until about 10:15. At this point the children split up into two groups. Each group has a short circle time and heads out on an "adventure" somewhere in Avery Park. The two groups meet at about 12:30 for lunch, open-ended art, and sensory play at Avery House. The day ends at the Dinosaur Bones for pick up. Interns must be comfortable in an open-ended environment and enjoy interacting with young children. Interns will assist with the supervision of children throughout the day. Interns engage with children throughout their activities and help provide information about the natural world. Interns are encouraged to share ideas about age-appropriate nature-related activities they would like to facilitate.

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:
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