

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH INTERNSHIP: The Ventana Wildlife Society is seeking enthusiastic, outgoing individuals to assist us in conserving native wildlife and their habitats through education and outreach. Intern will be responsible for the daily operations of our Discovery Center in Andrew Molera State Park, Big Sur and assisting the Education Coordinator in our Salinas administrative office with educational programming. Depending on the dates of the assignment, the percentage of time spent on these two components of the internship will vary.

Discovery Center Operation

Responsibilities include interacting with the public, selling merchandise, answering questions about VWS and Big Sur, and basic administrative duties. The Discovery Center is open 2-3 days per week depending on the season. Our ornithology lab is located in Big Sur as well, and is open to the public whenever our biologists are banding birds. During these times, intern will host the visiting groups in the Discovery Center, and assist biologists with group management if needed. Groups can also request a California condor presentation, which may be given by a condor biologist or the Education and Outreach intern.

Educational Programs

Intern will assist with the planning, management and instruction of various year-round meaningful outdoor education. Our administrative office is in Salinas, however programs locations vary:

Natural Science Awareness Program (September – April). Weekly classes are held in the fall and the spring. We currently offer two classes for youth ages 8-12, as well as a class for at-risk teens who have been expelled from public school. Classes may travel to various locations within Monterey County, or recur at the same location so that students may become native to a specific site.

Natural Science Discovery Camps (June – mid-August). Nine weeks of day camp provide exciting summer activities for youth age 8-12. Each week serves 25 youth, and culminates in a Thursday night camp out. Five weeks of camp serve the general public, while four weeks are free of charge to underserved youth enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club, Community Partnership for Youth and Salinas Police Activities League.

Specialty and Privately Scheduled Programs (Year-round). Programs may include a three-day two-night Condor Wilderness Camp for teens, Eco-experiences and Condor Tours for adults, single day adventure camps, conference visits / tours, presentations, fundraising events, etc.

Compensation

A bi-monthly stipend of \$293 and housing in Pacific Grove, CA provided. Internships span 6 months and positions are available starting in late February and late August. This is an excellent opportunity to gain valuable programming experience while living on the breathtaking California central coast.

Preferred applicants will have prior experience in education, youth work or camp operation, or a degree in a related field. A valid driver's license, and willingness to obtain a California State class B commercial driver license. The ability to hike comfortably for 2-3 miles, lift 50 pounds, work indoors in an administrative capacity, work outdoors in various weather conditions, interact with the public on a regular basis. An outgoing personality with a strong interest in natural interpretation and working with youth. A strong interest in conservation and stewardship, non-profit work, program planning, management and implementation.

Applications accepted in January for February start dates, and in July for August start dates. Positions open until filled.

For more information about the Ventana Wildlife Society, visit www.ventanaws.org. To apply, please submit cover letter and resume with three work related references to ALENA PORTE (EM: alenaporte AT ventanaws.org)