



## **UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION**

*made possible through the generous support of Quail Valley Charities and Anonymous Donors*

**Scope of Internship:** Summer 2018 is shaping up to be an exciting season for growth and learning. The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) seeks up to two motivated college interns with multi-disciplinary interests to explore career avenues in environmental education and nature conservation through assisting staff in teaching nature-based camps for children, conducting ecological field research in conjunction with the [Indian River Land Trust \(IRLT\)](#), maintaining large display aquaria used for public education about the Indian River Lagoon, and receiving mentoring from environmental education and conservation professionals. Interns must be able to work independently and professionally, exhibit positive attitudes at all times, and mentor younger students.

**About the ELC:** The mission of the Environmental Learning Center, a not-for-profit nature center located in Vero Beach, FL, is to educate, inspire and empower all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being. Now in its 30th year, the ELC serves on- and off-site over 20,000 children and adults through school excursion, camp, lecture series, adult education, professional development, festivals, and numerous partnerships and other programs. Its 64-acre campus is surrounded on three sides by the Indian River Lagoon, an estuary of national significance, and is 1.4 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The campus includes native plant gardens, an interactive museum including aquaria and touch tank, pontoon boat and canoes, children's nature play area, visitor center, gift shop, picnic facilities and more. Approximately two miles of raised boardwalks, trails, docks and elevated lookout stations with educational signage and a wireless audio tour also allow guests an educational, immersive experience of mangrove forests and the lagoon. In its fourth year of partnership with the IRLT, undergraduate summer interns participate in ecological research while exploring a wide variety of habitats on nearly 1,000 acres of IRLT preserves along the Indian River Lagoon waterfront. The IRLT's mission is to promote the preservation, conservation and improvement of natural resources and special places in Indian River County for the benefit of the general public and future generations.



**Eligibility:** The internship is open to undergraduate students registered at least part-time at their institution of study for the semesters before and after the summer who have completed at least one year of coursework at the start of the internship, and who are working towards a four year degree. Applicants must be in good academic standing, be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and be a U.S. citizen. In accordance with program funder guidelines, at least one of the two available intern positions must be filled by a student who is an Indian River County resident.

**Commitment:** Wednesday, May 30 through Friday, July 20, 2018. 40 hours per week.

**Compensation:** This is a paid internship with a \$2,500 stipend.

**Housing:** Interns are responsible for their own housing and transportation.

**Application Deadline:** April 11, 2018.





Please share any special experiences, honors, awards, clubs, or extracurricular activities that are relevant to this internship:

Describe independent project subject areas you would like to research during this internship.

Rank your interest level (1-4, with 1 = most and 4 = least interested) in building the following skills.\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with Teaching Environmental Education Programs (K-8<sup>th</sup> graders)

\_\_\_\_\_ Practicing Interpretive Skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Learning Ecological Field Techniques

\_\_\_\_\_ Learning Display Aquarist Techniques

\*Based on your ranking above. Please review the percentages of time, listed below, that this internship is devoted to building each of these skills and from that decide if this internship is a good fit for you and your career goals.

Assisting with teaching environmental education programs (43%). Practicing interpretive skills (10%). Learning ecological field techniques (27%). Learning display aquarist techniques (20%).

Describe your level of experience mentoring students younger than yourself.

Describe your experience working with children.



Describe your research experience.

Are you willing to be paired with a high school student intern to work as a near peer mentor on a team independent project?

Circle: Yes or No

**Essay:** In the space below (up to two pages), please share your career and research interests and goals and explain how an internship at the Environmental Learning Center, in conjunction with the Indian River Land Trust, will help discern your academic and career path?

By my signature below I certify that all information in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the Environmental Learning Center to seek verification as needed during the selection process.

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Signature

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Date