

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest

Nature Center Internship 2014

Organization Information

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) has been working for healthy land and sustainable communities in Kentucky and Central Appalachia for 35 years. ASPI is a non-profit resource center advocating for sustainable development, responsible resource management, and informed personal. We use science and technology to benefit current and future generation as well as the environment by promoting innovative ideas and appropriate technologies. We accomplish this through education, research, consulting and demonstration projects.

Our focus areas are: **Sustainable Energy, Education and Demonstration, Food Systems, People and Culture, and Ecosystems.** We operate out of our Small Town Demonstration Center at our main offices in Mount Vernon, KY. Our other educational facilities include the Mary E Fritsch Nature Center, Michael Francis Zalla Trails, and almost 200 acres of old growth forest at our Rockcastle River Demonstration Center in Livingston, KY. Both of our demonstration centers have examples of low-cost, simple, and effective sustainable technologies. We have organics gardens, cordwood buildings, solar panels, solar water heaters, composting facilities, native plant landscaping, camping platforms, picnic shelters, rain gardens, rain water collection systems, greenhouses, resource library, and a laboratory. Since our inception in 1977 in ASPI has been dedicated to education and awareness of our region's environmental issues and we remain just as dedicated to that ongoing cause 35 years later.

Program Description

We have three goals for our Rockcastle River Demonstration programs in 2014

- 1. Increase the number of educational program offerings and participants for the following four groups: pre-K- 4th grade, middle school, high school, and adults.**
- 2. Create a sustainable and economically viable educational program and expand our current facilities for regional populations to utilize.**
- 3. Publicize and market the programs and facilities.**

In 2014, we will continue to provide Professional Development courses for teachers at the center, and continue to conduct several workshop events for all age groups. We hope to have two interns working with each the Executive Director and the Nature Center Curriculum Coordinator to help us build a foundation for the next several years.

Nature Center Intern Duties:

- Install new exhibits on grounds
- Assist with developing community programs
- Prepare and host educational programming including workshops, classes, guided hikes, and educational booths

- Maintain the physical properties at the Rockcastle River Demonstration Site including the Nature Center, Cordwood Cabin, Solar Energy System, Trails, and Picnic Areas
- Help distribute flyers to schools/central offices/community groups
- Facebook campaign
- Assist with planning Grow Appalachia Rockcastle gardening meetings at the new center – encouraging parents to take info to schools
- Create a technical paper for building a recycled dock
- Provide interpretation for the Nature Center exhibits
- Facilitate the low-intensity team-building course
- Assist in building the high-intensity team-building course

Requirements

- Strong writing skills and interpersonal skills
- Comfort working with Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Ability to plan and complete projects independently
- Confidence in working under pressure with short timelines
- Comfort working with a wide variety of constituents
- Broad understanding and interest in many facets of sustainability
- Willingness to learn new skills, including working with tools and leading groups
- Ability to formulate new ideas based on current programs
- Prior experience strongly suggested, but not required

Funding is available through your school. Housing is available.

How to Apply

Deadline: April 15th 2014

Our EE Intern positions are filled by April for the summer program. You are welcome to visit, learn more about the center, and submit materials year-round. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter describing career goals and interest in this program along with a resume, including applicable experiences and coursework to:

Suzi Van Etten
 Executive Director, Appalachia- Science in the Public Interest
 50 Lair Street, Mt Vernon, KY 40456
suzi@a-spi.org
 606-256-0077