

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest Eco Systems Internship 2015

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 close to 200 acres of old growth forest at our **Rockcastle River Demonstration Center** in Livingston, KY. Both of our demonstration centers have maintained produce gardens for over three decades; we were one of the first gardens in Kentucky to be certified organic. 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 2015:

- 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 2015, 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.

How to Apply:

Deadline: April 25th 2015

Our Eco Systems 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

Adventure Race Intern:

- Assist in designing and planning an Adventure Race sponsored by ASPI and the City of Livingston, KY
- Implement a wilderness team-building course at the ASPI wilderness site.
- Create and distribute print and electronic media marketing
- Work to insure all aspects of the international adventure racing requirements are met and the race is certified for 2016.
- Work with local businesses to secure their partnership with the race

Exhibit Design and Curricula Development Internship

Design and install a cartography exhibit at the Rockcastle River Demonstration Site that

- exhibits different types of maps (geographical, topographical, political, etc.)
- contains 2 levels of interpretations (early reader and middle/high school)
- includes specific local, regional, state, and world maps of interest to ASPI's mission
- is protected from physical and biological factors of the ecosystem (damp, mold, etc)
- includes 2 take-home activities for teachers

Design curricula in conjunction with the Next Generation Science Standards for a three-part cartography experience:

- exploring the exhibit
- creating maps (participants create sound, topographical, or science research maps of the site)
- navigating with compass and/or physical and biological features of the forest/river
- Create 2 geocaching sites on ASPI's property
- Register sites on-line and create page about the cache for the ASPI website
- Create publicity flyer and distribute at Visitor's Centers in Livingston and Mt. Vernon
- Create and implement system to maintaining the caches

Nature Center Intern:

- 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

Requirements

Ability to identify individual steps to completing over-reaching goals and self-motivation are essential. Interns must be able to work in a group environment considering the interests of various parties, be physically able to complete the requirements and work independently. Prioritizing tasks is an important part of this internship.

- Strong writing skills and interpersonal skills
- Comfort working with Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- 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
- Ability to formulate new ideas based on current programs
- Prior experience strongly suggested, but not required
- Some knowledge of outdoor activities - camping, biking, hiking, climbing, canoeing, and/or rafting, etc., Ability to read maps
- Physically able to hike and canoe

Provided Resources:

- Wi-fi at the office and access to the Sustainability library for research
- ASPI website (will receive instruction, if necessary, on its use)

Housing Is Available.