

Early Learning 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 Camp focuses on outdoor exploration and engagement with nature. We run the camp (for ages 3-5) M-F from 9:30am to 1:30pm for ten weeks during the summer. This camp will be completely outside, based out of Avery Park with a field trip to a different park within Corvallis every week.

This means that shifts for interns would be M-F 9:00-2:00pm. Caterpillar Camp offers child-led, play-based programs. Much of the children's time is spent actively exploring the environment and materials, creating unique works of art, and interacting with other children. Interns must be comfortable in an open-ended environment and enjoy interacting with young children. During freeplay time interns will engage with children, assist children with hand-washing, snacktime, clean-up, and helping children transition from one activity to another. **We would prefer for Early Learning Interns to be with us for at least 2 days a week, if possible.**

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 3-5)
- 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:
karin.gb@corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org**