



Summer Internship Position:

Community Rivers Program Outreach & Watershed Health Assistant

Duration: 12 weeks (Full-time employment starting June 1st, 2021)

Stipend: \$3,000 (housing not included)

About Riveredge:

Riveredge Nature Center was established in 1968 and is located in Newburg, WI, a rural northeastern Wisconsin community. The sanctuary includes 379 acres of Wild Wisconsin including: 47-acre State Natural Area, over 1.5 miles of frontage along the Milwaukee River, and 10 miles of hiking trails. Prized by educators, naturalists and biologists for its exceptional biotic diversity and commitment to conservation, education and research, Riveredge is a regional resource for connecting with the natural world in any neighborhood.

About the Community Rivers Program:

In 2017, we launched the Community Rivers Program with our neighbors in the Village of Newburg, the first Healthy River Community in the state. In 2018, we were pleased to have the Villages of Saukville and Grafton join Newburg, and in the summer of 2020, the Villages of Fredonia and Kewaskum joined the Community Rivers family. Over the next 5 years, The Community Rivers Program will continue to work hand-in-hand with new towns, villages, and cities to create more Healthy River Communities within the watershed that feel connected to and care for their stretch of the Milwaukee River.

Our Approach:

In each Healthy River Community, we're taking a three-pronged approach to transforming a community's relationship with the Milwaukee River. Ultimately, we hope to develop a model that is replicable across the region, creating long term sustainability in the health of the Milwaukee River watershed. In each participating community, we'll work to:

- **Inspire-** We protect the things we care about. That's why one of the first steps of the project is reaching out to residents and helping them to develop a passion for and connection with the Milwaukee River watershed right in their own backyards! From kayaking programs to community wide festivals to watershed tours, we want to make sure everyone sees and feels the incredible value of being a Milwaukee River community.
- **Inform-** We know most people want to make a difference, and that often the only thing holding them back is the knowledge of what they can do. That's why we offer one-on-one property consultations, property owner workshops, family friendly programming and more that makes the problems (and more importantly, their solutions!) easy to understand and act on.
- **Engage-** Working hand in hand with residents, land owners, elected officials, scientists, and stakeholder groups, we coordinate programs, discussions, training, and resources aimed at empowering communities and their residents to implement best management practices for keeping their river healthy and clean. This isn't top-down regulation, but instead bottom-up change emanating from community members working together to design a plan that best fits their own town, village, or city.

Position Purpose

This program is rooted in a community-based approach to transforming the Upper Milwaukee River Watershed through the engagement of rural municipalities and their citizens in its region. The work conducted through CRP will inspire residents to care about their watershed, educate them about the challenges faced by the watershed, and engage them in changing land management practices to help improve the habitat and quality of water in the watershed. The Community Outreach and Watershed Health Assistant will achieve this through a series of personal engagement, adventure activities, and asset based community-wide efforts. The Community Outreach and Water Watershed Health Assistant is a critical component in the outward facing work of CPR throughout the summer as well as the internal process of tracking our progress, goals, and relationships established over time. This position will spend approximately 50% of the time allocated conducting research and completing programmatic administrative tasks and 50% of the time allocated in the field/conducting outreach.

Responsibilities

- Coordinate community outreach efforts for the CRP program, including hosting CRP engagement booths at community events, conducting afternoon and evening programs, and presenting the CRP at different venues throughout the CRP community to targeted groups.
- Initiate communications and schedule CRP events with local municipalities, nonprofits, and associations for a wide variety of audiences during the 2022 year- focusing specifically on summer months, June to September. (Example: composting workshop, kayaking, riverside strolls, family fishing)
- Document post event reflections, report participation numbers, participant feedback, photos and impressions.
- Assist with coordination of marketing materials and social media pages specific to the CRP.
- Teach summer school environmental programming (as scheduled) focused on river and watershed health for partnering Village Recreation Departments.
- Assist with all CRP programming and workshops for youth, adults, family and professional audiences.
- Distribute watershed behaviors survey to Healthy River Communities- assist in evaluation process and data analysis.
- Assist with other duties related to the mission and goals of Riveredge's Community Rivers Program.
- Develop a final report and presentation reflecting/recapping on the CRP summer experience to be shared at your exit interview.

Preferred Qualifications

- A Junior or Senior at a college/university or has obtained a Bachelor's degree in natural resources, environmental education, watershed management, or a related field.
- Comfort in talking to people of all ages and backgrounds about water quality, how water quality and land use impacts watersheds, and how their actions can impact (positively or negatively) the watershed system.
- Proficient in Google Applications, Excel, Word, and Powerpoint. Ability to track hours and tasks with detail.
- Ability to adhere to a timeline and meet project deadlines while balancing a flexible schedule.
- Strong communication skills- verbally and written.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to adapt to changing priorities and program demands.
- Ability to work as a team member as well as individually. Task oriented, self-starter and self-directed initiative.
- Availability to work flexible hours- varied schedule from week to week including evenings and weekends.

Working Conditions

- Sit and type for long periods of time indoors among an open concept office setting.
- Hike outdoors on varying terrain, in all seasons.
- Ability to lift up to 20 lbs. and climb stairs.
- Ability to assist with event set-up and clean-up.

Additional working conditions include:

- Work evenings and weekends on a regular basis.
- Assume travel within the state/CRP communities. Mileage is reimbursed.
- Occasional hours may be spent telecommuting from home.

To Apply

Please send resume, cover letter and contact information for three references electronically (in PDF or Word.doc Format) to: Patricia Gerber, pgerber@riveredge.us