

## Outdoor Education Internship

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a non-profit located near Eugene and Springfield along the banks of the Coast Fork of the Willamette and the base of Mt. Pisgah. Our mission is to engage people with nature through interactive learning and stewardship. We are looking for applicants who would like to gain experience in outdoor education.



Outdoor Education Interns build on local ecology and science to lead small groups of elementary aged children in nature-based outdoor lessons. All Interns work alongside the Education Manager and fellow Arboretum staff and are provided training opportunities before leading lessons independently. Interns build skills like: techniques for working with kids, experiential learning in outdoor settings, and nonprofit park and partnership management. Expectation of 12-35 hours per week, with compensation of \$16 per hour, must be available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



Summer Internships begin the third week of June and go until the end of August.

### **Outcomes for Summer Interns include:**

- Shadow first week of Summer Club program alongside Arboretum staff.
- Lead weekday summer programs (9am - 1pm) alongside fellow Interns & Arboretum staff. Guide elementary-aged groups on trails, engaging them in outdoor activities, games, and hands-on lessons.
- Modify existing curriculum or design new nature-based lessons to be used in future Arboretum programs.
- Manage the Education Center for two hours for at least 3 Saturdays total.
- Organize & upkeep of educational materials.
- Aid in weekend family walks or restoration projects on-site.

**To apply send a short cover letter & resume  
to the Education Department at:**

[jobs@mountpisgaharboretum.org](mailto:jobs@mountpisgaharboretum.org)

**Deadline for applicants May 15th**

## About Mount Pisgah Arboretum

### Current Educational Programs & Offerings

#### Youth Programs

- Youth Field Trip Programs: Discovery Tours have been serving elementary school children for more than 40 years. Approximately 2,700 kids per school year participate; these are aided by a group of 20-40 volunteers including U of O Interns.
- Nature Guide Training: Nature Guides for Discovery Tours are provided with extensive training and regular ongoing training opportunities.
- [Aves Compartidas](#): The current direction for the Environmental Leadership Program out of U of O, the Arboretum is hosting these field trips and aids in material & transportation funds.
- Summer Club: Three-hour program for kids during the summer offered two days a week. This provides a more affordable option for families who don't need full day care and fills a gap in other summer camp programs offered.



- Migrant Education Program Partnership: Arboretum staff train Spanish speaking youth to become nature guides using a similar curriculum as our nature guide volunteers. At the end of the program they led bilingual tours for K-5 kids in the Migrant Education Program. The youth are paid to participate in this program and have the option to continue to train and help lead family walks. This program is funded through grants which expire in two years, with a goal to keep this model going into the future.

- Host camps (and homeschool groups) from Whole Earth Nature School and Nearby Nature, with occasional involvement in programming from Arboretum staff.

- Host and lead summer camp groups from Beyond Toxics Boys & Girls Club (disadvantaged youth).

#### Walks & Workshops

- Nature Walks (aimed at teens and adults): Two-hour nature walks on topics ranging from birds, flowers, mushrooms, trees, reptiles, and more. 3-5 are offered a month. Led by staff and 15-20 volunteers, many of whom are experts in their field.
- Mindfulness/yoga/meditation/wellness walks: Several per year, not including groups who coordinate with us to lead their own.
- Family Walks: Family walks on no-school days and weekend days. led by staff.
- Workshops: Workshops provide a deeper dive into a topic. Many of the workshop leaders are paid experts.
- Guest Talks: Presentations to U of O classes, interest groups, environmental agencies



- Private Group Walks: Requested walks for groups that are not regularly scheduled (i.e. birthdays, weddings, daycares, retirement homes, interest groups, etc.)
- Regularly-scheduled group walks:
  - Bilingual walks with Huerto de la Familia and Pasos al Futuro
  - Field trips with U of O Environmental Studies classes
  - Field trips and workshops with U of O's Student Sustainability Center
  - Quarterly family walks with Nurturely

### Festivals and Community Science

- Mushroom Festival: Facilitate the largest mushroom festival on the West Coast of the US, with a display consisting of several hundred mushroom species, educational exhibits, and guided nature walks.



- Wildflower Festival: Facilitate the largest wildflower festival on the West Coast of the US (in terms of attendance, we believe), with a display consisting of 200-300 plant species, educational exhibits, and guided nature walks.

- Art in Nature Display: Facilitate nature art exhibit at Wildflower Festival which emphasizes mindfulness and the ephemeral qualities of art in nature.

- Since 2020, both festivals have included community science bioblitzes operated

through iNaturalist. Arboretum staff facilitate and promote these events and serve as primary identifiers of species.

- City Nature Challenge: Since 2019, the Arboretum has joined with other community partners in facilitating and promoting the City Nature Challenge, which is a bioblitz operated through iNaturalist that engages people in over 450 cities worldwide to document the natural world within their respective metropolitan areas. Staff also serve as primary identifiers of species.
- Mount Pisgah Lichen Inventory Project: in the winter of 2022-23, we engaged 30 volunteers in documenting lichen species on Mount Pisgah. In this novel community science project, volunteers were able to detect locations of high-value lichen habitat to inform conservation. [View the full report here.](#)

### Community Partners in Education (not comprehensive):

Lane Community College, Native Plant Society of Oregon, Cascade Mycological Society, University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Beyond Toxics, Whole Earth Nature School, Nearby Nature, Migrant Education Program, Huerto de la Familia, Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (multiple organizations), Nurturely, City of Eugene, etc.

