Sustainability Education Intern – April 2016 - May 2016

Integrating sustainability education, student leadership and community involvement.

Partners for Sustainable Schools (PSS) works to integrate sustainability into all aspects of K-12 education in Lane County. We provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills that build wonder, hope, and vision. PSS builds partnerships has been working for many years with local agencies & organizations (Lane Community College and UO, the City of Eugene, Lane County, local schools & school districts, EWEB, WET, BRING, etc.).

PSS is seeking UO students interested in sustainability & education to intern with us over the spring term. The team (you, other interns, your assigned coordinator, PSS staff and other volunteers) will work with several schools in the 4th grade classrooms throughout the 3-month period. Together we will provide empowering educational activities & in-class lessons based upon sustainability, nature and how to take appropriate action to protect the resources all living things depend upon.

If you are interested in having fun while receiving experience in education and the environment, this internship is for you. To be successful in working with the schools you will need strong communication skills, and a passion for education and the environment. Here are specifics of what we do in the schools:

Sustainability Education:

Our Sustainability Education is an 8-week program (one hour per week, for eight weeks, divided between fall and winter/spring terms), where students engage in learning about planet Earth. There is an emphasis upon the value of nature, the effects of human activities upon global ecosystems, and how we can change our habits to become better at protecting the resources we depend on. The chosen interns will be present for the second half of our lessons, the “Taking Action” component (more information below).

Whole School Involvement (spring activities):

In order to be fully effective, the Sustainability Education efforts need to be put into action school-wide. In the spring lessons, our 4th grade students act as the school’s “Green Team”, helping plan and implement various projects and activities in the school, such as an electronics waste recycling round-up competition (partnering with NextStep Recycling) and a large-scale recycled art project (partnering with MECCA). The students also organize and present at an assembly showcasing their accomplishments made throughout the year.

Intern Roles & Responsibilities:

Interns will be responsible for meeting with PSS staff to practice lesson material and presenting in-class with a lead teacher. The winter/spring lessons are very hands-on and focus on taking action in the school (improving recycling program, getting Oregon Green School certification, planning school-wide sustainability-related events, etc). The intern may also be responsible for assisting with our school-wide events such as the e-waste roundup or the recycled art project.
Hours and credit:
• Credit can be obtained for the spring term at a rate of approximately 4 hours/week.
• Interns are responsible for properly registering for credit through your academic program for any internship credit.

If you are interested in signing up, or you have any questions, please give us a call or email one of us:

**Partners for Sustainable Schools**

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**DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 2nd, 2016.** (Internships will be offered on a first come, first served basis).

**NOTE:** (1) No monetary compensation is available for this internship. (2) Continuing internship opportunities with PSS may be available. (4) Prior experience is not required.