Sustainability Education Intern – Sept 2013 through May 2014

Integrating sustainability education, student leadership and community involvement.

Partners for Sustainable Schools (PSS) works to integrate sustainability in 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. As the name suggests PSS builds partnerships and has been working for many years with local agencies & organizations (the City of Eugene, Springfield, local school districts, EWEB, WET, BRING, Lane Community College and the UO).

Overview:
- Experience with sustainability, education and leadership, working directly with local schools.
- Apply for the whole year - Fall, Winter and Spring (preferred – signup for 4 credits with ENVS) or the terms you want (signup for less than 4 credits – ex: Fall/1 credit and Winter/2 credits).

Details:
PSS is seeking UO students interested in sustainability & education to intern with us next year. The team (you, other interns, your assigned coordinator, PSS staff and other volunteers) will work with approximately 6 elementary schools for the entire school year (you can apply to intern for 1, 2 or 3 terms – 3 terms preferred). Together we will provide empowering educational activities & in-class lessons based upon sustainability, nature and how to take appropriate action to protect the earth.

All training for this position will be provided by PSS staff. An emphasis on working as a team, and clearly communicating on all aspects of the work we do, is a key aspect of PSS philosophy. If you are interested in having fun, while receiving experience in education and the environment, this internship is for you. Here are specifics of what we do in the schools:

Sustainability Education:
Our Sustainability Education is a 4 week program (one hour per week, for four weeks), where K12 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 earth. We are currently working with second, third and fifth grade classrooms.

Green Teams and the Oregon Green School program:
An active green team at an elementary school can include students, teachers, staff, parents and community volunteers. This team is responsible for waste reduction and energy/water conservation projects and activities. They also work to promote events and projects throughout the school using posters, announcements, presentations, etc.

The team can apply to be rewarded for their work by becoming certified through the state-wide Oregon Green Schools (OGS) program. This program assists a school in setting effective goals to reduce waste, encourage recycling, and conserve energy & water. Once complete, the school is awarded with a small grant and recognized by the state-wide OGS association with a framed certificate and awards assembly. [*Note: The OGS program, including the grant, is funded locally by the City of Eugene and Lane County Waste Management Division]
Whole School Involvement (spring activities):

In order to be fully effective, the Sustainability Education and Green Team efforts need to be put into action school-wide. By teaming the school’s 5th graders with the green team in the spring, this is achieved. Together these students work to monitor the garbage and energy of the entire school using the skills they learned in the fall. The students also organize and present at an assembly showcasing their accomplishments made throughout the year.

Intern Roles & Responsibilities:
* As mentioned above, training for each of the following roles will be provided by PSS staff.

**Sustainability Education presentations**
- Prepare Materials (handouts, videos, art projects, etc.);
- Schedule and Perform in-class lessons:
  - Teach sustainability concepts (water cycle, carbon cycle, etc.);
  - Perform mini energy audits (“energy scavenger hunts”) and other activities;
  - Help students create an action plan/action pledge for their classroom;
- Recruit students from the classroom to participate with the Green Team and spring activities.

**Assist the Green Team**
- Attend (and help schedule) the school’s green team meetings:
  - Help schedule/promote events and activities at the school related to green team projects;
  - Assist with coming up with ideas for the school’s Oregon Green School* certification requirements (see note above).
  - Encourage students, teachers and parents to get involved with the green team (meetings, activities and events)

**Whole School Involvement (spring activities)**
- Assist students in completing waste and energy audits/scavenger hunts;
- Help students create posters for the hallways;
- Prepare students for the spring assembly presentations.

**Hours and credit:**
- About 3 to 6 hours per week (depending on how many credits you sign up for)
- Interns are responsible for properly registering with the ENVS office for academic credit [approx. 1-2 credits/term], and/or receiving any required approvals. (Not an ENVS major? You may still be able to apply in your department or through ENVS. Contact us to find out!).
- This internship is designed for students to gain valuable skills and experience over the three terms of the school year. A full year commitment is encouraged, but not required at all to participate.

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

Partners for Sustainable Schools ♦ Joshua Frankel ♦ Program Coordinator
Email: greenschools@live.com ♦ Phone: 541-636-0096

**DEADLINE:** Open Until Filled. (Internships will be offered on a first come, first served basis). Preference will be given to applicants who call/email before or during the summer.

**NOTE:** (1) No monetary compensation is available for this internship. (2) Continuing internship opportunities with PSS may be available. (3) Prior experience is not required.