Fall Internships and Volunteer Opportunities with Nearby Nature

When you were a child, did you love playing outside? Catching bugs? Digging in the dirt? Pretending to be a wild animal? Did you spend your free time riding bikes? Climbing trees? Building fairy houses? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then you should volunteer or intern at Nearby Nature! Even though your life is busy with school, work, and other commitments, you still need time in nature. And by volunteering or interning with us, you’ll get your own fix of green time as well as a chance to pass your passion for the outdoors on to the next generation of nature explorers. You’ll also gain valuable field experience, leadership training, teaching skills, and new friendships.

So how do you get involved? Check out general descriptions of our fall volunteer positions and internships below and details at http://www.nearbynature.org/volunteer and http://www.nearbynature.org/volunteer/current-internships. There is something for everyone! Most Nearby Nature programs happen in Alton Baker Park, just across the footbridge leading to Autzen Stadium, an easy walk or bike ride from the UO campus.


Nearby Nature Volunteer Positions and Internships:

1) Fall Nearby Nature Trail Guides (both volunteers and interns needed): Trail Guides lead hands-on nature adventure walks for small groups of K-5th graders in Alton Baker Park on weekday mornings, late September-mid November. Volunteers lead at least one walk per week. Interns lead two-three walks per week. Additional projects, such as helping with pond study and weekend special events (the Haunted Hike!) can also be part of your internship. You do not need prior experience. We provide training in late September about everything from the art of teaching to local natural history. See information about our fall training schedule at http://www.nearbynature.org/volunteer/nature-guide-training-information. A minimum commitment of 60-90 hours per term is required for this internship. Volunteer commitment is just three hours per week once training is completed.

2) Fall Nearby Nature Education Program Assistants (interns needed): Nearby Nature Program Assistants lead hands-on nature adventure walks for small groups of K-5th graders in Alton Baker Park on weekday mornings, late September-mid November. They also help lead afternoon nature art and pond study activities, classroom visits, and special weekend events (the Haunted Hike). Some experience working with children and knowledge of natural history is required for this internship since you will be asked to take on more leadership roles. We provide training in late September about everything from the art of teaching to local natural history. See information about our fall training schedule at http://www.nearbynature.org/volunteer/nature-guide-training-information. A minimum commitment of 90-120 hours per term is required for this internship.

3) Fall Nearby Nature Learnscape Interns (interns needed): Would you like to be gardening this fall? Learnscape interns support the Edible Schoolyard, outdoor classrooms, and native habitat in Nearby Nature's Learnscape. Interns learn about building soil, perennial and annual crops, crop rotation and companion plantings, common garden bugs, common garden weeds and keepers, native plants, composting, and how to use design features in a multi-age educational landscape. In every season, Learnscape interns weed, plant, mulch, and do other outdoor work as needed, as well as have the opportunity to network with members of Eugene's excellent farm and garden community. No
experience is necessary although it is welcome! Training is provided. See http://www.nearbynature.org/learnscapes for more information about the Learnscape.

4) **Fall Restoration Interns** (interns needed): Restoration interns help Nearby Nature organize, coordinate, and lead volunteer groups as they remove invasive species and litter from Alton Baker Park. This internship is best for people who love our public green spaces and who are interested in learning to lead groups of people working on stewardship projects.

5) **Fall and Winter Kinder Critter Assistants** (both volunteers and interns needed). If you love wild critters and think it would be fun to dress up as a frog, butterfly, raccoon, or owl, then this is the project for you! This fall and winter, we will be visiting pre-school and kindergarten classes dressed up as Kinder Critters (see www.nearbynature.org/programs/kinder-critters). Presentations include information sharing, storytelling, and movement activities. Experience in costume desirable, but not required. Training provided.

**How to Contact Nearby Nature:**

1) Call us at 541-687-9699, email info@nearbynature.org, or see www.nearbynature.org/volunteering/current-internships for more information or to apply for internships. If you would like to stay in touch with us via Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/nearbynature.

2) Join us at Nearby Nature's Fall New Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, September 10, 6:30-8 pm at the Eugene Public Library (Tykeson Room) -- [http://www.nearbynature.org/events](http://www.nearbynature.org/events). This is not required for new volunteers/interns, but highly recommended. We prefer that folks interested in interning contact us prior to this meeting if possible. We would be happy to do interviews this summer if you are in town.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks!

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