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# *Organic Garden and Permaculture Education Intern Position Description*

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*January 2022*

Riveredge is more than a nature center. Its legacy as a pioneer in the areas of land restoration, research, and inquiry-based education throughout Wisconsin serves as a strong foundation to its future initiatives. Today, Riveredge is redefining the role of the nature center in the community by empowering and supporting communities to live in harmony with their natural environment in a way that encourages exploration, adventure, and fun.

The mission of Riveredge Nature Center is to inspire, inform, and enable responsible environmental decision-making and sustainable practices by providing leadership in education, preserving and restoring the Riveredge and other natural sanctuaries, and serving as a resource for scientific research.

Riveredge has a 50+ year history as a leader in environmental education in the State of Wisconsin. The Center provides science-based, inquiry-oriented, outdoor experiences to learners of all ages. In 2014, Riveredge adopted an "audacious goal" to become the leading destination in the Midwest for learning, discovering, and experiencing the interconnections between nature and society. We will do this through creating partnerships which transform the culture of our formal education systems, communities, and lifestyles. This is an exciting time in the history of Riveredge as we work to pioneer strategies to redefine the role of nature centers in today's society.

## Purpose

The intern will work creatively with the Riveredge Nature Center team of staff and volunteers to develop and maintain the organic garden, outdoor kitchen, and the permaculture site for use by Riveredge Nature Journeys Summer Camps and other educational groups.

## Responsibilities

- Assist in the planting and care of the Children's Organic Garden and the Riveredge Permaculture Farm permaculture farm site under the guidance of the Senior Facilities Manager.
- Create opportunities for summer campers to engage in the garden and the permaculture farm by engaging with crop growth and ripeness along with encouraging participation in agricultural upkeep such as weeding.
- Learn about environmental education by co-teaching 3, week-long garden-focused summer camp sessions for ages 6-12.
- Complete weekly garden and farm activities including: sowing, transplanting, weeding, watering, harvesting, fertilizing, composting and pest control.
- Assist in development and implement meaningful educational activities related to the organic garden, outdoor kitchen, and permaculture plantings.
- Assist with other Youth and Family environmental education programs during evenings and weekends as needed.
- Other duties as assigned.

## Expectations

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In addition to the responsibilities, the Garden and Permaculture Education Intern is expected to meet the following expectations set forth to all staff members of Riveredge Nature Center:

- Meaningfully contribute to the Riveredge staff team. This includes helping with projects, programs, and events that may fall outside of the primary duties or departments of this position description.
- Foster an inclusive and supportive environment through personal actions such as supporting and helping other staff members and volunteers.
- Provide high quality customer service experiences to all guests and volunteers.
- Strive for excellence and innovation.

## Preferred Qualifications

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- A student or individual who has completed coursework in environmental sciences, natural resources, agriculture, education, or a related field or has obtained a Bachelor's degree in one of those fields.
- Self-starter and self-directed with a well-developed ability to work independently.
- Able to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions.
- Able to perform lifting and bending associated with gardening.
- Enjoys working with children of all ages and families.
- Enthusiastic, positive, motivated and likes to have fun on the job.
- Ability to work as a member of a team by sharing decision making while personally assuming and also asking for responsibility and accountability.
- Experience with vegetable gardening, farming, or environmental education for children.
- Good communication skills, punctual, creative and energetic.
- Ability to work with a diverse group of people of all ages and abilities.

## Compensation & Working Conditions

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The Garden and Permaculture Education Intern will receive a stipend of \$400/week (without housing). Housing at UW-Milwaukee's Field Station, just minutes away from Riveredge, may be available.

This is a seasonal position beginning in May lasting until no later than September. On average, the Intern will agree to work 40 hours per week. While most hours will take place Monday-Friday, some weekend and evening hours may be included. Most of the work will take place outdoors and includes physical labor and lifting.

### To Apply

Email your cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references (in PDF or Word Format) to [smerten@riveredge.us](mailto:smerten@riveredge.us) no later than **March 15, 2022** to the attention of Steff Merten, Associate Director of Education.