

Organization Information

Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter is a 1,200 acre nature preserve and education center in Park City, UT. It encompasses 800 acres of wetlands, 400 acres of uplands, and a 10,000 square foot LEED Platinum certified “green” visitor’s center. The mission of Swaner is “Preserve, Educate, Nurture.” We aim to preserve the land, educate the community about the value of nature, and nurture both the ecosystem and the human connection to it. Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter is a part of Utah State University.



Fostering the delicate relationship between people and nature is at the heart of managing the Preserve. It is nestled in an area with expanding development and plays an increasingly important role in the area’s water quality and quantity, is home to a wide variety of wildlife, and offers 10 miles of recreational trails that are among Park City’s most heavily used. Swaner aims to balance the needs of the native ecosystem with those of our community. We believe that the health and beauty of the natural landscape heightens our quality of life.

Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter also offers a wide range of education programs for both youth and adults. Youth programs reach thousands of children per year and focus on science, environmental issues, and developing a sense of appreciation for and responsibility toward our environment. Youth education programs offered include field trips, in classroom lessons, and summer camps. A monthly series of adult programs offers everything from lectures on water quality, aspen health, and sandhill cranes to seasonal cooking classes and moonlight snowshoe tours.

Internship Information

Swaner is offering a unpaid 10 to 15 hour per week internship during Spring 2017 (January through May). The education intern will assist in a wide variety of educational programs that take place both on the Swaner Preserve and in the EcoCenter. The delegated projects will include the planning and facilitation of educational programs at the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter. In the spring of 2017, the education intern will be involved in the following:

- Assist in leading field trip and classroom visit programs to K-5th grades in Summit, Wasatch, and Salt Lake counties
- Help to develop summer camp curriculum and assemble materials to summer programs
- Assist with and lead Little Naturalist preschool reading program
- Assist with occasional evening community education programs
- Maintain front desk during EcoCenter open hours

This internship presents the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of responsibilities critical to the operation of a non-profit education program. Interns will have additional opportunities to learn about nonprofit administration, LEED green building features, fundraising, marketing, and more.

The weekly hours and schedule will vary, but has flexibility.

Desired Qualifications

- A commitment to outdoor education and/or conservation
- The ability to work in a self-motivated and independent manner
- An outgoing, optimistic, and can-do attitude
- A desire to work with youth
- Basic proficiency with Microsoft Office products
- Coursework relevant to the fields of environmental education, conservation, science education, outdoor leadership, etc.
- Ability to speak Spanish is a plus
- Must be able to pass a background check



Instructions to Applicant

For questions and interest in the education internship, please contact Katherine Veeder, Education Director, at katherine.veeder@usu.edu or 435-797-8942. To apply please submit a resume and cover letter to contact information listed above.