



Norman Bird Sanctuary

Education Internship

Reports to: Director of Education

Dates (Flexible):

September – December 2008 (Deadline: Until filled)

January – May 2009 (Deadline: November 30, 2008)

June – August 2009 (Deadline: April 30, 2009)

Hours: Flexible, with opportunities available from Monday-Saturday. We prefer regular commitments of 10-35 hours per week.

The Norman Bird Sanctuary (NBS) is a not-for-profit environmental education center and 300+ acre sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate, and care for the world of nature. Located a short distance from Newport, Rhode Island, NBS serves a broad range of audiences. Our educational offerings include age-appropriate programs for school, camp, public, and scout groups; nearly 10,000 students participate in our nature-based programs annually.

The Sanctuary also features a 300+ acre “outdoor classroom,” with seven miles of hiking trails and forest, field, pond, ridge, salt marsh, and beach habitats.

Job Summary: As a member of the Norman Bird Sanctuary education team, you will be responsible for assisting with PreK-12 school fieldtrips and outreach visits, public programs for children, families and adults, seasonal camps, and other special events. This position also involves preparing and developing educational materials and curricula and helping to ensure a positive experience for all NBS visitors. All educators are expected to provide enthusiastic and innovative instruction, teaching through hands-on and inquiry-based methods that encourage exploration, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world.

We are seeking interns that are able to work independently, are self-motivated, and that share a passion for the environment and conservation of our natural resources.

Responsibilities: The Education Intern responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with NBS on-site education programs (field-trips) and off-site courses (outreach) for schools, camp groups, community organizations, and public programs
- Assisting with night and weekend education programs as assigned (Friday Family Nature Nights, Saturday Explorers Club, special events, etc.)
- Helping to lead guided hikes, animal presentations, craft stations, and other activities
- Creating educational materials and teaching tools; helping to develop interpretive information for displays and hand-outs

- Handling and teaching with education animals (mammals, reptiles and amphibians, invertebrates, and birds of prey)
- Assisting with animal care as needed; other responsibilities as assigned

Qualifications:

- Interest or experience in education, biology, or environmental science
- Interest in learning about environmental education and Rhode Island natural history
- Enthusiasm for working with children and interacting with the public
- Comfortable speaking in front of groups of all ages
- Knowledge of (or interest in) natural sciences
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- Basic computer skills
- Self-motivated and able to work independently and with a team
- Ability to work actively throughout the property in a variety of weather conditions
- Positive attitude and a sense of humor are a must!

Requirements:

- 18+ years of age
- Some undergraduate coursework required
- Preferred: Degree or 2+ semesters of coursework towards a degree in education, biology, environmental science, or a related field
- Own transportation required
- Must pass mandatory state background check

Compensation: This is an unpaid internship; however, NBS will be happy to work with your school or university to help you obtain academic credit for internships.

To Apply: Interested students should fill out an internship application (available by visiting www.normanbirdsanctuary.org, or by calling 401-846-2577). The application, along with a cover letter, resume, and 3 references, should be sent to:

Mail: Catherine Arning
Director of Education
Norman Bird Sanctuary
583 Third Beach Rd
Middletown, RI 02842

E-mail: education@normanbirdsanctuary.org

Please make sure that your application is complete and is submitted by the appropriate deadline. Once all applications have been received, they will be evaluated and qualified candidates will be selected for an interview. NBS is an equal opportunity employer.