



South Slough Reserve Internship Program

Sponsored by the Oregon Coast STEM Hub

Title: High School Summer Nature Education Internship

Application Deadline: April 14, 2026

Summary: This position will provide interns with training and experience in the areas of Environmental Education, Interpretation and Community Education.

Environmental Education: Teach or assist with delivery of outdoor science camps. This will include:

- Interacting with and speaking in front of children and parents.
- Outdoor work hiking along trails, marsh, mud, and sand with groups of children in various weather.
- Standing for extended periods in classrooms or at tables both inside and outdoors.
- Hiking 3-4 miles on steep, unpaved trails, and boardwalks, wading across muddy tide flats while carrying equipment weighing up to 30 lbs.
- Carrying buckets and coolers of water and live organisms along a dock and up steep ramps
- Kneeling, crouching, sitting, or lying on your stomach on a dock or uneven outdoor surfaces.

Program Support: Answer participant questions, assist with program sign-in, lead segments of programs, help prepare materials for programs, clean up after and assist staff members as needed. This may include:

- Interacting with or speaking in front of diverse audiences of people.
- Carrying, loading, and unloading up to 50 lbs. of gear into a vehicle.
- Transporting folding tables, chairs, exhibits and props for up to 0.5 miles over sidewalks, gravel parking lots, grass or through buildings with hallways and stairs.
- Unload, thoroughly clean and put away gear that has been used in the field.
- Put away supplies and clean spaces after programs.

Benefits to Intern: Interns will be exposed to both an Oregon state office and a protected reserve environment with a host of learning opportunities ranging from stewardship and marine science to public and office communications. Environmental Education interns will work alongside seasoned education professionals, scientists, and researchers to:

- Assist with preparation of lesson plans, set up, clean-up and delivery of hands-on science-based educational programs.
- Understand and interpret natural history, botany, forestry, estuaries, and wetlands.
- Assist with ongoing scientific research.
- Stipend Award: \$15/hour
- Hours: 20-30 hours/week (working every other week)

SOUTH SLOUGH NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

61907 SEVEN DEVILS ROAD, CHARLESTON, OR 97420 | 541-888-5558

Required Qualifications: Students attending high school in the fall of 2026, or who are graduating high school in spring/summer 2026 are eligible to apply.

Desired Skills: This position is ideal for a person who is interested in science, teaching and enjoys the outdoors. Interns should also:

- Follow instructions and work well as a part of a team.
- Be comfortable interacting with individuals and groups of people, especially children.
- Have some knowledge of the natural resources/science and a willingness to learn.
- Read and write at or above an 8th grade level.

Time Commitment: 8 weeks @ 20-30 hours every other week, including training for a total between 110-150 hours.

Start Date: **June 10** - End Date: **Aug 14**

Workstation: South Slough Reserve Visitor Center | 61907 Seven Devils Road, Charleston, OR 97420

Evaluation: Intern will be mentored by the Reserve's Education Program Coordinator. They will provide formal feedback to the intern on a weekly basis and less formally on an as needed basis. This relationship allows the student to ask questions and the mentor to listen and make suggestions. A final verbal and written evaluation will be conducted by the intern's mentor and other staff and volunteers who have worked with the intern.

Contact: To apply go to our website: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/ss/Pages/volunteer.aspx> complete application and submit cover letter and resume. **Questions?** Deborah Rudd, Reserve Public Involvement Coordinator | (541) 294-9866 | deborah.rudd@dsl.oregon.gov

Mentor Commitment: The Reserve Public Involvement Coordinator will serve as the liaison for all interns in the South Slough Reserve Internship Program. However, training and monitoring of the interns' daily activities and performance feedback are the responsibility of the intern's mentor. The commitment of the Reserve mentor is as follows:

- Mentor will provide training and/or coaching in the areas of 1) Environmental Education 2) Lesson Planning 3) Group facilitation/teaching 4) Program support.
- Mentor will assign work for the intern to complete.
- Mentor can assist the intern in identifying an individual project if desired and provide the necessary support and/or coaching to allow them to successfully complete the project.
- Mentor will review the intern's work for accuracy and compliance to agency policies and procedures.
- Mentors will provide interns with feedback regarding his/her performance and provide evaluative information upon completion of the program and upon request.

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