

Big Creek Outdoor Education Center

Outdoor Education Internship



Finding the right seasonal employment is a daunting task. You want to find a position that fulfills your goals, drives your career forward, and leaves you energized instead of drained. You risk wasting valuable time with a job that isn't fulfilling. We are seeking individuals that share our mission to use education as the tool to connect people to the natural world. "You won't save what you don't love and you can't love what you don't know." - Jacques Cousteau. We work hard, we work long, and as an intern you will work for free, but the experience you will gain is absolutely priceless.

Since 1983, The Glacier Institute, a private 501(c) (3) nonprofit, has been providing hands-on, field-based education in some of nature's wildest places. Big Creek Outdoor Education Center primarily serves students ages 7-16. We are an all-inclusive site, meaning we provide lodging, meals and transportation for all of our participants. Big Creek Education Center is located 20 miles north of Columbia Falls, Montana (our nearest town), and occupies an old Forest Service Ranger Station. Our remote, off-grid site sits along the banks of Big Creek, sandwiched between Glacier National Park and 2.4 million acres of National Forest land. Reaching us requires traveling 7 miles of unpaved dirt road, and most of our buildings are historically designated, resulting in truly rustic accommodations.

Job Summary:

This is an unpaid internship that includes full room and partial board, a 2021 employee entrance pass into Glacier and Waterton National Parks, free admission to all Glacier Institute courses (subject to availability), a friends and family discount for all Glacier Institute courses (subject to availability), and plenty of professional development in a wide range of fields. Outdoor Education Interns play an essential role in the operation of The Glacier Institute's Big Creek Outdoor Education Center. Interns gain a season of experience working with school groups and youth camps to empower students of all ages through place and science-based outdoor education. By the end of the season, Outdoor Education Interns are skilled enough to teach various environmental science classes, co-lead students on day-hikes and backpacking trips (depending on dates of employment), and monitor students during overnight bunkhouse stays. If desired, Big Creek Outdoor Education Interns will have the option to select, design, and carry out a long-term project that will contribute to the Glacier Institute's mission and vision, while also utilizing their own unique skills and professional development goals. All staff rotate through a variety of camp tasks including, but not limited to, food preparation, cleaning, and site improvement projects.

Start Date: June 14th, 2021 **End Date:** August 14th, 2021*

**There is flexibility with the end date, depending on school/prior commitments*

Compensation:

- On-site housing provided
- 2021 employee entrance pass into Glacier and Waterton National Parks.

The Glacier Institute

• 320 Nucleus Ave • P.O. Box 1444 • Columbia Falls, MT 59912 •
• Tel: (406) 755-1211 • www.glacierinstitute.org • careers@glacierinstitute.org •

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- Friends and family discounts for all Glacier Institute courses (subject to availability).
- Professionally develop your skills as a teacher, naturalist, ecologist, chef, handyman, off-grid connoisseur, and more!

Professional Development:

- Develop a thorough understanding of Glacier National Park and the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem including the natural and geologic history, land use management, cultural history, and much more!
- Gain experience teaching and developing interactive, field-based educational curriculum for students ages 7-16.
- Co-lead students, ages 7-16, on day, multi-day, and overnight field-based outdoor education programs and day hikes.
- Option to join/co-lead a multi-day backpacking trip with students ages 11-16.
- If desired, interns may select, design, and carry out a long-term project that will contribute to The Glacier Institute's mission and vision, while also utilizing the unique skills and professional development goals of the intern.
- Gain valuable experience and tools for managing students' safety in unregulated outdoor environments.
 - Glacier National Park boasts the highest density of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states, and staff should expect at least one bear encounter to occur. Bear spray and bear safety training will be provided.

Responsibilities:

- Provide overnight supervision in gender-separate bunk houses, as needed June-August.
- Monitor students during meal and free-times.
- Assist with the preparation of daily meals for up to 45 guests while following Montana ServSafe regulations (no certification necessary, on the job training will be provided).
- Participate in daily/weekly housekeeping and cleaning tasks as assigned by the Program and Assistant Program Directors.
- Participate in site improvement projects as assigned by the Program and Assistant Program Directors (e.g., painting, staining, light-carpentry, rodent control, wood chopping, landscaping, etc.).
- Display confidence and comfort working in adverse environmental conditions (snow, rain, 0°F-100°F temperatures, mosquitoes/ticks, hazardous wildlife, etc.).
- Represent the Glacier Institute in its mission and goals.

Minimum Qualifications:

- At least one year of undergraduate education OR equivalent experience with a working knowledge of comprehensive natural/environmental processes.

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- Current CPR certification valid through the contracted dates of employment. The Glacier Institute can provide compensation to interns in need of CPR training if they do not possess a valid certification.
- Ability to live remotely on-site.
- Ability to hike 12 miles with up to 3,000 feet of elevation gain over steep, rocky, and potentially snowy terrain, and carry a pack up to 50 pounds.

What to Expect:

- The average age of our staff is around 21-30 years old.
- The nature and location of our work provides for a fast paced and unpredictable environment. Those who can think on their feet, adapt quickly, and be flexible will thrive at Big Creek.
- While our site is entirely off-grid, we are fully functioning with running water (from a well), electricity, heat, and standard appliances (including a washer & dryer). We run a large solar panel on site that is supplemented by a propane generator when needed.
- Because we all work, live, and recreate together in a remote setting, a strong bond quickly forms between staff. You will leave here with lifelong friends and connections.
- We work hard in exchange for unbelievable access to some of the wildest, most rugged, and most scenic landscapes in the U.S. Many past staff members have enjoyed mountaineering, backpacking, fly fishing, rafting/canoeing/kayaking, mushroom collecting, skiing (there's snow year-round!), wildlife photography, catching a glimpse at the Northern Lights, and so much more.

How to apply:

If this position sounds like the right fit, please submit a resume, 3 reference contacts, and a cover letter to careers@glacierinstitute.org

We look forward to your application!

The Glacier Institute provides equal employment opportunities to all individuals regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

The Glacier Institute is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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