

Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist Intern (Summer 2023)

Grow your own skills and build experiences that will better enable you to impart curiosity, knowledge, and a sense of stewardship with visitors and groups both local and from around the world. The **Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist Intern** will lead interpretive natural history hikes for small but varied groups of visitors at the semi-remote and semi-rustic Peterson Bay Field Station. This person will also co-lead multi-day, overnight field studies for educational groups of all ages and participate in community based monitoring projects such as harmful algal bloom monitoring, sea star surveys, and phenology studies. Field sites feature rocky intertidal areas of outstanding diversity, a coastal forest trail system, and salt and freshwater wetlands.

The Naturalist Intern will work alongside the Peterson Bay Field Station Naturalist, Peterson Bay Field Station Coordinator, CACS Program Director, and other naturalist educators to learn together about best practices in experiential, place-based interpretation and education and to gain knowledge of Alaskan coastal ecology.



Training & Mentorship

- Participate in paid master naturalist training at the Peterson Bay Field Station at the start of the summer, which will include training on natural sciences, Alaska Native cultures, and nature interpretation.
- Opportunities throughout the summer for paid professional development.

Core Duties:

- Plan and lead engaging and informative natural history day tours for adults and families, featuring guided exploration of the beach and forest, and introductions to Alaska Native history and culture. Adjust each day tour to fit the interests, needs, abilities, and energy-level of the group and the day's weather.
- Assist with day and overnight (2-7 days) coastal ecology and service learning programs for student groups (3rd grade - undergrad) and families at the semi-remote Peterson Bay Field Station. Lead age-appropriate, place-based educational activities and help with meal preparation and chaperoning of participants. Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive environment for all participants.
- Facilitate evening activities for youth groups, including campfires, games, and beach walks. Model stewardship actions and facilitate stewardship activities.
- Work cooperatively with teachers/leaders, parents/guardians, chaperones, and other CACS staff and volunteers to provide high-quality experiences for participants. Administer basic first aid.
- Facilitate group transitions to and from the Homer Harbor and orient groups to Peterson Bay Field Station.
- Live on-site at the Peterson Bay Field Station for 3-7 days per week. This is a semi-remote location, only accessible by boat. Water taxi transportation is provided at the beginning and end of the work week.
- Maintain CACS program supplies, assist with upkeep of intertidal touch tanks, and perform routine facility and trail maintenance at the Peterson Bay Field Station, including trail clearing, troubleshooting water system problems, and maintenance of the composting toilets.
- Develop and complete a project of interest to both the intern and CACS with a focus on citizen monitoring, research, education, or interpretation.

- Provide photos for social media and advertising, conduct participant evaluations of programs, and complete basic office tasks such as program data entry.

Qualifications

- Creativity, curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.
- Experience or demonstrated desire to work with youth and adults in outdoor settings.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative work environment and live and work in a semi-remote location with visiting groups and other naturalists.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, boat scheduling, group needs, etc.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about basic intertidal, marine, and forest ecology, and Alaska Native cultures, particularly Dena'ina and Sugpiaq/Alutiiq ethnobotany and land stewardship.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate complex science concepts, and make people feel welcome.
- Commitment to CACS's work towards justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in our programs, and dedication to our vision of healthy ecosystems, engaged and connected communities, and inspired environmental stewards.
- Ability to receive and give direction and feedback on a variety of topics.
- Demonstrated good judgment and experience with risk management in challenging settings, including first aid and CPR certification (with preference for Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification).

Equal Opportunity Employer & Equity Statement

The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies recruits, employs, trains, compensates and promotes regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, class, veteran status and other protected status as required by law.

We recognize that the field of environmental education has long excluded Black, Indigenous, and people of color as well as people from working class backgrounds, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. We also recognize that environmental injustice and climate change disproportionately impact the most marginalized people in society- including people of color, Indigenous people, people from working class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ+ people. We believe that these communities must be centered in the work we do and that environmental education will be stronger and richer with more diverse perspectives.

Hence, we strongly encourage people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities to apply for positions with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. You are encouraged to self-identify in your cover letter, if you feel comfortable doing so. Please contact Katie Gavenus (katieg@akcoastalstudies.org, 907-235-1974) with any questions or concerns.

Position runs from May 29 – September 4, 2021 (end date flexible). Includes some evening/weekend work. \$11.50-\$12.50/hour DOE + housing is provided

To Apply: Please submit a **cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references** to jobs@akcoastalstudies.org by January 11, 2023.

In your 1-page cover letter, please explain why you are interested in this position and describe the relevant work, academic, and/or life experience that you will bring to this position. Please indicate in both the cover letter and email subject line the position for which you are applying.