

Organization: Lake Superior YMCA

Internship Focus: Nature Based Childcare

Location(s): Hermantown or Superior

Reports To: Center Director

Hours: Flexible



The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Position Summary:

This internship is intended to give students a practical, hands-on experience in early childhood development as well as nature-based education planning and implementation. The intern will assist our teachers and program directors with leading activities, preparing materials and supervising preschool aged children with nature-based learning.

Essential Functions:

1. Work with YMCA staff to develop curriculum and lead a variety of outdoor educational and nature-based activities.
2. Using observation and assessment tools, document each child's growth and learning in relation to their developmental level.
3. Meet children's physical and emotional needs, fostering skill-building & independence.
4. Interact with parents warmly and authenticity at pick-up and drop-off.

Required Qualifications:

1. Past experience working with children.
2. Strong interest in outdoor programs and nature-based education. Enthusiasm for working outdoors or open-air environments year-around.
3. Solid understanding of child development in the early years.

Desired Qualities:

- Passionate and curious about teaching
- Loves the outdoors and natural learning
- Artful, playful and spontaneous
- Finds joy in singing, storytelling and creative exploration
- Familiar with play-based learning approaches
- Warm, kind and approachable
- Confident in working independently
- Open and authentic in your communication
- Good listening and keen observation skills
- Dependable and motivated

Compensation:

1. Interns do receive a YMCA membership during their internship. You will also receive a great experience working in the non-profit sector with one of the largest non-profit organizations in the nation.
2. Access to selected early childhood and YMCA professional development trainings (we'll cover registration costs).
3. Opportunities to design and implement your own project with support from the Center Director.
4. Experience collaborating with teachers, families, and administrators in a licensed early learning environment.
5. A meaningful role supporting children's growth and development in a play-based setting.
6. Although this internship is unpaid, we will work with you and your school to assist you in receiving college credit. It is the responsibility of the student to determine if academic credit is available through their degree program.

Application Process:

- Cover Letter & Resume
- One or two letters of recommendation

Contact Information:

Gina Miller

Volunteer & Internship Coordinator

Lake Superior YMCA

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