



Big Creek Outdoor Education Center Educator Internship

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. We do outdoor education to inspire action. Employment with The Glacier Institute allows you to empower future generations, hone your educational finesse, discover Glacier National Park, and maximize your impact.

Big Creek Outdoor Education Center primarily serves students ages 7-18. 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 board, a 2020 employee entrance pass into Glacier and Waterton National Park, 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. Educator 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. Educator Interns are responsible for teaching various environmental science classes, co-leading students on day-hikes and backpacking trips (depending on dates of employment), and monitoring students during overnight bunkhouse stays. If desired, the Big Creek Educator Intern 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 the unique skills and professional development goals of the intern. All staff rotate through a variety of camp tasks including, but not limited to, cooking, cleaning, and site improvement projects.

Start Date: June 10, 2020

End Date: August 14, 2020

*There is some flexibility in these dates, specific details will be discussed during hiring.

Compensation:

- Full room and board.
- 2020 employee entrance pass into Glacier and Waterton National Parks.
- Friends and family discounts for all Glacier Institute courses (subject to availability).
- Professionally develop your skills as a teacher, naturalist, ecologist, chef, handyperson, off-grid connoisseur, and more!

The Glacier Institute

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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:

- Ability to work and live in remote, off-grid locations with limited cell-phone service or immediate emergency services.
- Provide overnight supervision in gender-separate bunk houses July-August.
- Monitor students during meal and free-times.
- Prepare daily meals for up to 45 guests while following Montana Serv-Safe 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 Managers.
- Participate in site improvement projects as assigned by the Program and Assistant Program Managers (e.g. painting, staining, light-carpentry, rodent control, wood chopping, landscaping, 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.
- 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.
- All of our operations occur in high-risk, unpredictable, remote, and unregulated wilderness conditions, which can pose a limitless set of challenges.
- On many days Plan A has gone out the door by 9:00am. 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 thrive at Big Creek.
- The buildings we occupy are old and have seen a lot of use over the years. Mice, spiders, bats, and Becky the pack rat are all part of the deal. You will quickly get acquainted with mouse traps, finicky water heaters, and hodge-podge amenities, but these are just some of the things that gives Big Creek her lively character.
- While our site is entirely off-the-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.
- Two cell phone boosters allow for cell reception (weather permitting), and if you're lucky you can even get some 4G (if you're into that kind of thing).
- 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.
- As a staff, we will work early on to establish healthy communication and teamwork practices so we can all enjoy a positive, fun, and productive season! People (staff and students) will have different beliefs and habits than each other, and to be a successful member of our staff you must be respectful of diversity, empathetic, and open-minded.
- We usually work five long (10-14 hour) days a week** and are always on the move.
**During crunch weeks and/or staffing shortages, staff may be scheduled for more than 5 days/week, advanced notice will be given if these circumstances occur.
- 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 addressing to careers@glacierinstitute.org

We look forward to your application!