

Job Title: Common Ground Camp Intern

Camp Details: See www.commongroundct.org to read about our camp. The camp blog at <http://commongroundct.tumblr.com/> is full of pictures and videos that give a great idea of what a Common Ground summer might look like!

Common Ground Campers enjoy activities and adventures that take advantage of the site's 20 acres of forested hiking trails, wildlife and diverse natural habitats, and a working organic farm that includes production and education gardens and a variety of farm animals.

Interns work as assistant teachers for campers ages 4 – 13. Campers are divided into groups by age, and some camps have a special theme (animals, outdoor skills, cooking from the farm). Interns may indicate an age and/or activity preference and we work to accommodate requests. Interns are paired with an experienced mentor teacher and will work with their mentor to develop, lead, and reflect on one or two lessons and activities per week. This lesson planning and teaching time is an excellent opportunity to try ideas and learn teaching skills.

Campers participate in both structured and unstructured activities on the farm and in the forest. Depending on personal interests and skills, a camp intern might lead farm animal care, take campers on a nature hike, lead a group in cooking a snack from the garden, be creative with recycled or natural materials, lead games that foster friendship and cooperation, explore the stream and catch crawdads, or coach a child on how to hold a chicken! Each day is different, but interns will always have some assigned stations or activities and will also lead or assist with daily activities for small groups based on their interests and experience. Daily work involves being an integral part of this community, teaching, playing, mentoring, getting dirty, eating strawberries, rounding up chickens, bandaging knees, and making memories.

In addition, all interns work as supervisors in the camp's extended day program from 2:30 – 6 PM. This is open recreational time and it provides the opportunity to interact with campers of all ages and to learn and practice group management skills. All camp staff contribute to facility maintenance and cleaning as needed at the end of each camp day.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Interns must have completed high school and be at least 18 years old. Our interns come from many backgrounds and life experiences and all applicants looking to gain experience with children and nature are welcomed. Our typical camp staff represent a wide range of ages and backgrounds.
- Enthusiasm for exploring nature with children.
- Open to working effectively with individuals from diverse communities and cultures
- Ability to work with children in a patient, nurturing manner (staff training provided to help learn skills in this area)
- Willingness to get dirty and work hard in all weather (including summer heat & humidity and/or rain)
- Work includes being a role-model for high school students working as camp counselors. Teenage counselors may be close in age to some interns, so the ability to work with a group of peers while still maintaining appropriate boundaries is essential.
- Ability to be physically active for most of an 8 hour day
- Demonstrated commitment, reliability, punctuality, and responsible behavior at previous jobs

Internship Details:

Schedule: Camp dates are June 27 – August 12, 2016 (including staff training week). **Camp staff must be available for ALL dates** – it is not possible to take days or weeks off. We are open on July 4, 2016, and all staff are expected to work a normal day.

Interns work Mon – Fri from 8:30 AM –6:00 PM (*interns leave early two days per week so that total hours per week are no more than 40*).

Compensation: \$10/hr.

Housing: Housing is not provided.

Transportation: Parking is available on-site, as are bicycle racks. We have a bus-stop on site (take the B1 bus from the New Haven Green), and we are walking distance from New Haven's Westville neighborhood.

Location: Common Ground, 358 Springside Ave, New Haven, CT 06515

To Apply:

- Step 1: Complete the online application [HERE](#).
- Step 2: Email a resume and a cover letter describing your interest in our programs and your relevant experience to Rebecca Holcombe, Camp Director: reholcombe@commongroundct.org.
- Interviews will be scheduled with qualified applicants who have completed both steps in the application process.
- Applications accepted until positions are full. Interviews begin in February 2016.
- Deadline: We have eight interns positions open for summer 2016 and applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. We start interviews in February and aim to have all staff and interns hired by April.

Common Ground is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. Common Ground does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Common Ground does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Common Ground's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Betsy Sneath, Director of Business and Administration

Common Ground - High School, Urban Farm and Environmental Education Center

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