Coastal Watershed Council

Organization/Agency: Coastal Watershed Council

Supervisor/Sponsor: Debie Chirco-Macdonald  Supervisor/Sponsor title: Program Coordinator

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# of interns needed: 3-4 interns   # Hours needed per week: 6-12/15 hrs (or 2-5 units)

Internship assignment Description:
The Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to preserve and protect coastal watersheds through community stewardship, education and monitoring. CWC was formed in response to the declining health of the watersheds of the Monterey Bay region. We seek to restore the watersheds of our region and teach our residents how to become stewards of their local creeks, streams and coastal areas.

For this internship we are seeking students with interests in: Environmental-Studies, Biology (not really micro-bio), Education, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Public Administration, Non-Profit Management, Mathematics & IT (gaming, network, file structure & web design), and Public Relations/Marketing.

Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters:
1. Elementary and Middle School Programs: Funded by a NOAA grant and local city contracts, CWC provides elementary and middle school students (Alianza Charter School in Watsonville, New Brighton Middle School in Capitola and San Lorenzo Elementary and Middle School in Felton) with hands-on outdoor educational experiences. The programs run from September 2011 – June 2012.

Direct interaction with students and teachers occur throughout the school year. Program topics include: introducing students to watersheds and water issues; water quality monitoring; species identification (plant and animal); numerous projects addressing watersheds, water quality and equipment; field trips to the slough and creek; habitat cleanup; and classifying objects (rocks, leaves, plants, etc.). There is both school/field time and office time for this portion of the internship.

Interns will be assisting the Education Coordinator, Bridget Posson, with curriculum development relating to watershed science, preparing and delivering lessons and activities for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.
Interns must be available during some weekdays (from 7:30 to 3:30) to be able to assist in teaching. The ability to help students, talk in front of a class and lead games and activities is a must. Experience working with children and the ability to lead a group is vital to CWC’s education programs.

Fall Quarter:
2. First Flush: The First Flush Program is an annual volunteer monitoring event that samples storm drain runoff during the first significant rainfall of the wet season (typically in September or October). During the first rain water washes significant amounts of pollution off street surfaces, driveways, and curbs and into storm drains. This concentrated mix of often polluted water flows directly from these storm drains into creeks, rivers and the Monterey Bay.

The CWC intern will assist with all aspects of the program, including: volunteer recruitment & training, equipment calibration, team equipment kit preparation, participation in the event, data entry and post-event clean up.

Spring Quarter:
3. Snapshot Day: This internship will have the student(s) focusing on all aspects surrounding the preparation, implementation and wrap up our 13th annual Snapshot Day event occurring on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The student intern(s) will become an integral part of the success of this event, working as a team player on aspects such as outreach, volunteer recruitment, press releases and PSA’s, equipment calibration and preparation, field work and data entry.

Summer Program:
4. City of Capitola Urban Watch Program: This program will run from April through mid-October. Each event is led by CWC staff and consists of teams going out to local streams and storm drain outfalls to analyze water quality. We do this by using our field equipment and collecting samples for laboratory analysis.

The CWC intern will assist with all aspects of the program, including: field program time, equipment calibration, volunteer recruitment, data entry.

All Quarters:
5. Development and Communications: We are seeking an intern to assist in the development activities of the organization. Ideally, the candidate would be a graduate level student interested in Non-Profit Management or environmental policy/studies/management, but this does not exclude other interested students. The intern would be assigned but not limited to the following activities:

- Implement CWC’s communications strategy
- Develop marketing materials: event fliers, brochures, posters, etc.
- Create CWC social networking strategy to include Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Researching grant opportunities, proofread grants
- Assisting in special events/fundraising
- Managing website/social networking sites
- Assisting in media outreach

6. On-line Gaming Development: CWC has a Data & Stewardship Portal (DSP) that offers to local leaders and the public the results of our water quality monitoring programs. Citizens can
navigate a Google map-based interface to an area of interest, such as where they live, work or play, and see bacteria, nutrient or sediment levels, for example. Data can be graphed, exported in tables, etc. In addition to this data sharing, the DSP includes a Stewardship component. Using CWC’s online Stewardship Toolkit, users can learn what steps they can take on their property to protect their local watershed by reducing stormwater quantity and improving stormwater quality. After someone implements one of these best management practices (BMPs), they can upload photos and a description of their efforts. The idea is to enable citizens to play a positive role in protecting the environment; they can also comment on the postings of others. CWC now hopes to add a fun or gaming/competition element to this unique stewardship project. Can you help us generate interest in this tool and ramp up traffic and use of the DSP? This is a unique and challenging mixture of the physical and social sciences with information technology.

Prerequisites: CWC is a casual office located in the beautiful Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor. We run an office with PCs, not Macs, and require knowledge of Microsoft Office (especially Excel and Word). Other IT skills that are helpful include Adobe products (Illustrator, Photoshop) and web design tools (WordPress).

Additionally, we seek a student with good attention to detail, desire to work in the field, ability to work in a small office environment and as a team player, and finally, possessing a good sense of humor.

These internships provide the student intern with an experience that includes “working world” experience, field time, teaching aspects, use of water quality monitoring equipment, water sampling, volunteer tracking, computer skills and public relations. CWC strives to shape internship opportunities that help our work towards the mission of watershed protection, but always balances that with creating meaningful and enjoyable experiences for the intern.