



# Ventana Wilderness Alliance

## Youth in Wilderness Program

**Job Title:** Field Assistant, Youth in Wilderness Program

**Employment status:** Internship

**Hours/Week:** Approximately 30 hours per Expedition assigned

**Pay:** School Credit

**Who we are:** Founded in 1998, the Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) is a California nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the wildlands of California's northern Santa Lucia mountain range.

The mission of the Youth in Wilderness (YiW) program is to inspire, educate and motivate future generations of central California's wilderness advocates and stewards. Supported by preparatory classroom workshops, YiW organizes, outfits, and leads elementary to university-aged young people in central California on hikes and multi-day wilderness backpacking expeditions through the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness areas. These life-changing experiences are provided at no cost to participants.

**Who we are looking for:** We seek passionate, motivated, professional and organized university students as Field Assistants. The ideal candidate has experience in youth outdoor education and/or professional guiding (particularly backpacking expeditions) and has some familiarity with the Big Sur backcountry (Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness areas). The ideal candidate also has a flexible class schedule, has weekend availability (Fri-Sun), and is local to Santa Cruz or Monterey County.

Duties of this position include:

- Assisting at least 2 expeditions per field season.
- Assisting in facilitation of pre-expedition classroom visits.
- Assisting with pre-expedition preparation including food shopping, gear round-up, and pre-expedition briefings with Program Manager and Field Instructors.
- Following gear maintenance and inventory control protocols.
- Post-Expedition debrief with Program Manager and Field Instructors.

Essential skills/traits:

- Valid driver's license and clean driving record are essential. Owning a car is a plus.
- Weekend availability is essential.
- Passion and commitment to youth outdoor education.
- Timely and professional communication is a must.
- Ability to connect with youth (particularly from underrepresented and at-risk backgrounds).
- Reliability – always following through on one's commitments.
- Flexibility/Adaptability – Field Assistants must be ready to lead rain or shine but also be ready for partner cancellations due to weather (or other reasons).
- Reasonable fitness required – able to hike up to 7 miles in rugged terrain with a full pack.
- Wilderness First Aid Certification is a plus! Wilderness First Responder certification highly preferred.
- Spanish fluency is a plus!

If interested, please email resume and cover letter to Youth in Wilderness Program manager, Toan Do ([toan@ventanawild.org](mailto:toan@ventanawild.org)).