

Environmental Studies



Assignment Description Form

Organization/Agency: Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History
Supervisor/Sponsor: Alex Krohn Supervisor/Sponsor title: Staff
Address: ENVS, 1156 High St, Santa Cruz CA 95064 Email: arkrohn@ucsc.edu
Phone: 831 459 4763 Fax: NA Website: https://norriscenter.ucsc.edu
of interns needed/Hours Needed for quarters: Options (choose one)
worked per intern: x Fall x Winter Remove your listing by
5 / 60 x Spring x Summer x Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment: Brief statement about the agency; role of the intern and specific objectives of the projects assigned to the intern; tasks to be performed.

The Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History is a natural history museum located on the campus of UC Santa Cruz. Our mission is to help students learn about natural history, biology, and ecology, while helping curate our collection of plant, animal and fungi specimens. The taxidermy intern will be crucial in helping add to, and maintain, our current collections. The intern will be trained in how to skin, dry, document and properly preserve bird, and possibly mammal, specimens over the course of the quarter. According to a detailed protocol, the intern will work to create scientific specimens from previously collected animals to add to the museum's collections. By the end of the quarter, the intern will have a working knowledge of bird (and possibly mammal) morphology, internal anatomy, identification and preservation techniques. The intern will also understand the basic tenets of curating museum specimens. The objective for the intern will be to create at least three scientific specimens (study skins) per quarter. Specific tasks include dissecting, skinning, stuffing, sewing and properly documenting dead birds and mammals.

Prerequisites: Outline the skills and background information necessary to participate in this internship. The intern must be extremely detailed oriented, and unbothered by gore. A background in biology is not needed, but a passion for ornithology, taxidermy and/or natural history museums is preferred. The work requires extremely careful dissection following a detailed protocol. The work will sometimes be tedious and slow-going, with the sights and smells of blood, excrement and rotting birds. We will provide the necessary protective equipment, but you must provide the positive attitude and excitement.