

# SANTA CRUZ OFFICE OF EDUCATION COUNTY SCIENCE INITIATIVE

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Organization: Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Sponsor: Amity Sandage
- Position: Environmental Literacy Coordinator
- Email: [asandage@santacruzcoe.org](mailto:asandage@santacruzcoe.org)
- Phone: 831-466-5711
- Address: 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz
- Website: <https://sites.google.cpm/view/environmental-literacy-for-all/home>
- # of Interns/Hrs: 1-2 interns 12 hrs/wk
- Quarters: All
- Keep on File for 1 year

## INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) has launched a County Science Initiative to support all ten school district in the county to implement new standards that require students' to practice the skills of science, not just memorize content. The COE is committed to demonstrating the use of outdoor environmental education as the most engaging, inclusive and culturally relevant approach to creating science learning experiences for all students.

The COE is preparing to launch a Youth Leadership Council for Sustainability and Environmental Justice. The goals of this program are to increase student voice and agency, and to support environmental action and civic engagement of middle school and high school students around environmental issues they identify as important to them. UCSC interns will play an important role in identifying model programs and potential resources for use in the program, recruitment of student leaders and community partners, co-planning events, and documenting and promoting the program's activities through the website and appropriate media outlets.

This initiative also includes ongoing work with K-12 teacher leaders and environmental education organization partners who have participated in the COE's Teacher Leadership Institute for Science and Environmental Literacy. Interns will assist in preparations for workshops and events for this group, gather and disseminate resources to teachers and environmental education partners, and assist with ongoing communication among the group.



## INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

A second internship project (which could possibly be combined with the above as it will likely ultimately be connected to the youth leadership council) is assisting in the development of a plan to support schools and districts in making progress toward greening campuses. "Greening campuses" includes not only adopting policies and sustainable practices for waste management, energy use, water use, etc. but also the creation and use of green spaces--adding nature to campus--that can be used to improve health and wellness as well as provide outdoor classroom space. This internship would involve:

- gathering information from schools to create a landscape analysis of schools' and districts' current goals and resources in this area
- researching tools and guides to identify those most useful and organizing/presenting them for ease of use by schools
- and documenting and promoting progress made by schools in their efforts to green campuses.

## PREREQUISITES

- Communication skills for reaching out to schools and community partners
- Organizational skills (organizing information into spreadsheets, time management for a project that has a variety of elements)
- Bilingual in Spanish is a plus
- Lived experiences that would contribute to the development of the programs
- Experience working with Middle and High School Youth is a plus

