

Stewards of the Woods Internship

Hands-on Experience in Environmental Education, Conservation, & Animal Care

Asbury Woods' **"Stewards of the Woods" Internship Program** offers college students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in environmental education, conservation, and animal care while working alongside passionate professionals in a dynamic nature center setting. Interns will develop valuable skills, contribute to meaningful projects, and build connections that prepare them for future careers in environmental and educational fields. Whether leading programs, restoring habitats, or caring for wildlife ambassadors, interns will leave with practical knowledge, professional growth, and the confidence to pursue their goals. This internship is ideal for students seeking an immersive, impactful, and resume-worthy experience in the natural sciences and beyond.



Focus Areas: Environmental Education, Conservation, and Animal Care

Who it's for: College students or young professionals seeking hands-on experience

Duration: flexible, year-round

Location: Asbury Woods *Andrew J. Conner* Nature Center

Application Deadline: Ongoing

How to Apply: Submit resume & letter of interest to Emma Mader, emader@asburywoods.org

Apply now to gain real-world experience and make an impact on your community and the environment.



About Asbury Woods

The mission of Asbury Woods is to inspire a greater connection to the natural world by protecting, managing, and interpreting our property; providing outdoor recreational opportunities; and offering environmental education experiences.

Asbury Woods achieves this mission through a diverse array of educational, environmental, and recreational programming for schools, community groups, families, and individuals of all ages. In addition, Asbury Woods manages and maintains 234 acres of preserved property, which includes native species, old-growth forests, landscaped gardens, wetlands, boardwalk trails, and dirt trails. The Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods is the cornerstone of educational programming, providing animal exhibits and free public access. The Brown's Farm Barn, located on Sterrettania Road, provides additional programming space for summer camps, school visits, and community programs.

Asbury Woods is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is made possible by funding from program and service fees, grants, special events, and generous donations from members and patrons. Annually, Asbury Woods positively impacts thousands of people who use the trails, attend festivals, or participate in education and community outreach programs.



Environmental Education Focus

Overview

Interns in this track will assist in planning, preparing, and delivering environmental education programs for audiences of all ages. They will help lead camps, school programs, and public events while learning best practices in interpretation and education.

Example Projects & Experiences

- Assist with leading summer camps and school field trips
- Create educational materials or props for nature lessons
- Develop and lead a short program on a topic of interest (e.g., pollinators, watersheds)
- Shadow educators and receive feedback
- Participate in outreach events or family programs

Key Skills Gained

- Public speaking and teaching
- Environmental interpretation techniques
- Group management and youth engagement
- Lesson planning and curriculum adaptation
- Professional communication with educators and families

Ideal For Students Studying

- Environmental Education
- Education (Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary)
- Environmental Science
- Parks & Recreation
- Interpretation or Outdoor Leadership

Relevant Careers

- Environmental Educator / Naturalist
- Classroom Teacher with an Environmental Focus
- Interpretive Ranger
- Camp Director
- Curriculum Developer (non-formal settings)



Conservation Focus

Overview

Interns in this track will focus on land stewardship, habitat restoration, and sustainable practices at Asbury Woods. They will gain hands-on field experience and contribute to meaningful conservation efforts on the property.

Example Projects & Experiences

- Assist with invasive species removal and native planting
- Trail maintenance and erosion prevention projects
- Water quality or wildlife monitoring (amphibians, pollinators, etc.)
- Help implement conservation practices such as rain gardens or habitat shelters
- Create signage or reports on conservation work

Key Skills Gained

- Fieldwork and ecological monitoring techniques
- Native/invasive plant identification
- Team collaboration in outdoor environments
- Land management tools and safety practices
- Observation, data collection, and documentation

Ideal For Students Studying

- Environmental Science
- Biology / Ecology
- Natural Resources Management
- Sustainability Studies
- Forestry

Relevant Careers

- Conservation Biologist
- Land Steward / Land Trust Manager
- Ecological Restoration Specialist
- Park Ranger
- Environmental Field Technician

Animal Care Focus

Overview

Interns in this track will support the care, feeding, enrichment, and handling of the education animals at Asbury Woods. This includes reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals used in public programs.

Example Projects & Experiences

- Daily husbandry: feeding, cleaning, health monitoring
- Enrichment design and implementation
- Assist in animal encounters during programs
- Create informational signage for animal exhibits
- Shadow animal care staff and learn handling protocols

Key Skills Gained

- Animal husbandry and care routines
- Animal behavior observation and documentation
- Responsible animal handling and safety
- Educational interpretation with live animals
- Record-keeping and cleanliness standards

Ideal For Students Studying

- Zoology
- Pre-Veterinary Studies
- Animal Science
- Wildlife Biology
- Environmental Education

Relevant Careers

- Wildlife Rehabilitator
- Zookeeper / Animal Keeper
- Veterinary Technician
- Environmental Educator with Animal Handling
- Animal Behavior Specialist

Application Tips & Program Bundling Ideas

Interns can choose one primary focus area, but they are encouraged to explore overlapping interests. Staff may also offer hybrid experiences when appropriate. Here are some ways to customize the experience:

Examples of Bundling Focus Areas

- Education + Animal Care: Interns lead live animal programs for the public or schools. Interns may also help or create their own public program featuring the animals of Pennsylvania and Asbury Woods.
- Conservation + Education: Interns develop and teach programs about native species or restoration efforts. Interns help with trail maintenance and work with volunteers on why this project matters.
- Animal Care + Conservation: Interns assist in creating enrichment that mimics natural behaviors or habitats.

Tips for Applicants

- Review all three focus areas before applying.
- Reflect on your academic and career goals to select a focus.
- In your application, describe why you're drawn to that focus and any relevant experience.
- Be open to learning from all departments — interdisciplinary knowledge is valuable!