YMCA Camp Seymour  
Sustainability Intern

Contact person:  Becca Gjertson, Director of Outdoor and Environmental Education

Address:  9725 Cramer Rd. KPN, Gig Harbor, WA 98329

Phone:  (253) 460-8895

Email:  bgjertson@ymcapkc.org

Internship Position Title:  Sustainability Intern

Number of Openings:  1 or 2

Quarter(s) Internship is available for:  Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer

Hours per week:  

Paid or unpaid:  Unpaid, but Meals provided

Location:  YMCA Camp Seymour, 9725 Cramer Rd. KPN, Gig Harbor, WA 98329

Description of Organization:  YMCA Camp Seymour is a not-for-profit Y Camp that runs programs year round. In the summer we run a traditional resident summer camp. During the school year and parts of the winter, we offer Outdoor and Environmental Education (OEE) Programs to school groups during the week and conferences and retreat groups on the weekend. We also offer teen leadership programs, family camps, and challenge course/high ropes course programs.

Camping, like many Y programs, is about learning skills, developing character and making friends. But few environments are as special as camp, where kids become a community as they learn both how to be more independent and how to contribute to a group as they engage in physical, social and educational activities. Camping teaches self-reliance, a love for nature and the outdoors, and the development of attitudes and practices that build character and leadership—all amidst the fun of camp fires, bugle calls, canoeing, archery, talent shows, and meaningful relationships. Y counselors are dedicated to making sure camp is an amazing experience for every camper.
Responsibilities of Intern:

Camp treats most of its waste water on sight in its Living Machine. The Living Machine uses plants not chemicals to treat the waste water mimicking a wetland ecosystem. We have an organic garden, and we received a grant and will be getting chickens in the spring of 2014. The Sustainability Interns would have the opportunity to work on a number of projects in conjunction with the OEE Directors.

- Develop a sustainability, food, and nutrition curriculum for our OEE program centered around the camp garden and chickens. Concepts can also include discussions of conservation and industrial vs. organic agriculture
- Develop a 5 day Farm and Garden Curriculum (1 hour per day) for to be used during summer camp
- Garden, compost, and Living Machine maintenance and care (pruning, weeding, harvesting, etc.)
- Observe and teach Sustainability & the Living Machine classes to students participating in our program.
- Create a new Watershed class with a model for students. Class would give students the chance to build a watershed model, then understand the environmental hazards involved and discuss methods for solving these problems.

Qualifications:

- Passion for/interest in Sustainability
- Strong sense of responsibility and dependability
- Independently motivated, able to develop projects with minimal supervision
- Good communication skills with adults and children
- Displays outstanding organizational skills
- Background/knowledge in gardening, compost, and/or chickens preferred but not required

Preferred Majors/Minors: Sustainability and/or Education

How to Apply: Fill out a Volunteer Application which includes a list of reference needs, and turn it in to Becca Gjertson @ YMCA Camp Seymour. Go through the interview process. If chosen all Volunteer interns are required to take Child Abuse Prevention Training and must pass a background check.