Land Stewardship Intern
Position Description

Riveredge is more than a nature center. Its legacy as a pioneer in the areas of land restoration, research, and inquiry-based education throughout Wisconsin serve as a strong foundation to its future initiatives. Today, Riveredge is redefining the role of the nature center in the community by empowering and supporting communities to live in harmony with their natural environment in a way that encourages exploration, adventure, and fun. Our mission of is to inspire, inform, and enable responsible environmental decision-making and sustainable practices by providing leadership in education, preserving and restoring the Riveredge and other natural sanctuaries, and serving as a resource for scientific research.

Riveredge Nature Center was established in 1968 and is located in Newburg, WI, a rural northeastern Wisconsin community. The sanctuary includes 379 acres, consisting of a 47-acre Riveredge Creek and Ephemeral Pond State Natural Area, over 1.5 miles of frontage along the Milwaukee River, 37 acres of prairie establishment, beech-maple forest, and pond, swamp and fen communities. Prized by educators, naturalists and biologists for its exceptional biotic diversity, Riveredge is a regional resource for scientific research, hosting more than 40 studies, projects, inventories, monitoring programs, surveys, and other types of scientific investigations to date. It is protected habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the swamp metalmark butterfly, forked aster, goldenseal and the Red-shouldered hawk; it is host to many more Species of Local Conservation Interest (SLCI).

Position Purpose
The Land Stewardship Intern will have a unique opportunity to work as part of the Riveredge Nature Center team of dedicated staff and volunteers. The Intern will work with Riveredge land management staff to assist with land stewardship and preservation objectives. Students will gain experience in natural area assessments and management, plant species identification, invasive species management, wildlife monitoring, heavy and power equipment utilization, safe herbicide use and application, restoration forestry, GIS mapping and data collection, ornithology, environmental education, as well as working with a dedicated group of land management volunteers.

If the Intern chooses to take college and university credit with this program, Riveredge staff will work with him/her to fulfill requirements when applicable.

Primary Responsibilities
● Work long days in the field independently or as part of a crew to remove invasive species, monitor resources, or other land management activities as directed
● Keep a detailed log of activities
● Assist with RNC’s volunteer stewardship program
● Maintain equipment and supplies
● Keep in excellent communication and assist with other related duties to the RNC mission

Position Expectations
In addition to the Primary Duties, the Land Stewardship Intern is expected to meet the following expectations set forth to all staff members of Riveredge Nature Center:
● Meaningfully contribute to the Riveredge staff team. This includes helping with projects, programs, and events that may fall outside of the primary duties or departments of this position description
● Foster an inclusive and supportive environment through personal actions such as supporting and helping other staff members and volunteers
● Provide high quality customer service experiences to all guests and volunteers
Compensation
At this time, stewardship interns are not compensated.

**UW-Steven’s Point Only**
(Students conducting their 6-week summer experience at Treehaven will receive a stipend of $130/week plus housing at Wellspring, just minutes away from Riveredge. Interns who do not need housing will receive a stipend of $250/week for six weeks). Riveredge is accepting applicants for the second 6-week session.

Benefits & Working Conditions
This is a seasonal position. On average, the Intern will agree to work 40 hours per week. Most hours will take place during the Monday-Friday workweek.

This position reports directly to the Director of Research and Conservation.

Preferred Qualifications
- Completed coursework in the ecology, land management, natural resources or related field
- Self-starter and a well-developed ability to set and meet goals within an acceptable timeline
- Enthusiastic, positive, motivated and likes to have fun on the job
- Ability to work as a member of a team through good listening skills, shared decision making, and having accountability
- Strong interpersonal skills, organized and professional demeanor, self-directed
- Be able to handle heavy land management equipment (over 50lbs)

Position open until filled. Please send a letter of interest and resume to Matt Smith, at msmith@riveredge.us.