



Position Title:	Thorne Summer Camp Teaching Assistant (TA) or Student Teaching Assistant (STA)
Employer:	Thorne Nature Experience
Job Status:	Part time, Seasonal Volunteer. At least 1 full week (Mon-Fri), from 8:30-2:30pm, and up to 11 weeks of volunteering
Pay Rate:	Unpaid Volunteer Position
Reports to:	Program Manager – Field Trips and Volunteers
Application Deadline:	Positions are open on a rolling basis until filled. Scheduling of volunteers begins in April.
Application Process:	Additional information available at www.thornenature.org . Questions regarding the position can be directed to gwen@thornenature.org and will be responded to within 3 business days.

Thorne Nature Experience Mission and History:

Thorne Nature Experience is a non-profit organization that is committed to building Earth stewardship by connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences. Thorne believes in ensuring access for all youth to discovery, exploration, and a connection to the natural world. Founded in 1954, Thorne has a rich history and has reached more than 250,000 children and adults through its three programs: In-School, Summer Camp, and Field Trip.

Thorne Summer Camp Program Description:

Established in 1957, Thorne Summer Camp reaches more than 2,300 youth each summer through field-based ecology “Camp Experiences” for kids ages 3-15. Learning takes place through hands-on, science-based, experiential activities. Popular “Camp Experiences” like, Mud Mucking, At Home in the Woods, and Bird Banding utilize local prairie grasslands, evergreen forests, and wetland habitats as a classroom and enable youth to connect with and learn about nature. Thorne Summer Camp is licensed by the State of Colorado Division of Childcare.

Expectation for All Volunteers:

Support the Thorne Nature Experience mission and exhibit a commitment to:

- Working collaboratively, with integrity and respect for fellow employees, associates, and our communities.
- Embracing personal responsibility and accountability for your role at Thorne.

Purpose:

The Thorne Summer Camp Teaching Assistant provides program support for Instructors, contributing to our mission of connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-

based environmental education experiences. The Teaching Assistant will support a “Camp Experience” by spending each day in the field, Monday-Friday, 6 hours per day.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Support Instructors in the field with supplies and added supervision
- Actively assist in the education of students about the wonders of the natural world through joyful, hands-on, field-based exploration
- Participate in the drop off and pick up protocol for Thorne Summer Camp- assisting parents, Instructors, and Education Programs Director
- Act as a role model for all students, illustrating appropriate behavior and environmental ethics
- Encourage a joyful, safe, meaningful outdoor experience for students.
- Ensure the physical and emotional safety of all students during programming
- Complete any required forms and submit all required information needed by Thorne Nature Experience for compliances with Colorado Department of Social Services child care licensing standards

Desired Outcomes:

- Contribute towards successful delivery of Thorne Summer Camp and the achievement of Thorne’s mission
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating of Thorne Summer Camp’s ability to connect students to nature
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating that Thorne Summer Camp pick-up/drop-off process was good or fantastic
- Contribute towards achieving 90% or better positive rating that Thorne Summer Camp Instructors feel supported by Thorne Staff in the field
- Contribute towards achieving 95% or better positive rating that parents will send their child to Thorne Summer Camp in the future
- Contribute towards achieving 95% or better positive rating that the camp was well managed and well organized
- Contribute towards Thorne’s Core Value of inclusiveness, respecting the perspectives and contributions of all people

Job Interrelationships:

- Thorne Nature Experience Staff and Thorne Summer Camp Instructors
- Thorne Summer Camp Students
- Thorne Summer Camp Parents and Families
- Other Volunteers and Interns
- General Public
- Guest Speakers and Community Partners

Desired Skills and Abilities:

- Strong communication skills with adults and children
- Good organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks and roles, patiently and professionally
- Must be able to hike up to one mile
- If volunteering with a biking “Camp Experience,” must have a tuned bike, helmet, and replacement tire tubes
- If volunteering for an Adventure “Camp Experience,” must be able to participate in the overnight
- Experience relating to and communicating with diverse audiences, especially Mexican American participants and families preferred

- People of Color encouraged to apply
- Bi-lingual in Spanish and English encouraged to apply

Desired Behavioral Traits and Attitudes:

- Team player, fun, outgoing, passionate, positive, mature, organized, creative, resourceful, timely, critical thinker, results-oriented, and self-motivated.
- Strong interest in and/or with some experience in environmental education in informal settings.
- Passionate about the Thorne Nature Experience mission and environmentally concerned and aware.
- Previous experience as a Thorne camper is preferred to be a STA.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 16 or older to be a Teaching Assistant
- Must be 13-15 years or older to be a Student Teaching Assistant
- Experience with school-age children strongly recommended
- Must receive positive feedback from at least 2 references
- Must pass a background check cleared by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (Thorne helps with this)
- People of Color encouraged to apply

Special Requirements:

- Must commit to working 1 full week for up to all eleven weeks of Thorne Summer Camp, in Boulder, Louisville, or Littleton
- All S/TA's must attend a training session. The main training will be held in early June. Make up trainings will occur a few other times each summer. A link to register for a training is within the volunteer application.
- S/TA's can request to work with certain Camp Experiences, and we will do our best to meet their requests. We also need to consider Thorne's priorities, and might request that S/TA's help with alternative Camp Experiences, depending on Thorne's needs.
- STA's also need to register through the CampMinder registration system. This is because all youth under 16 years old are covered by Thorne's childcare license under Colorado state law, so STA's need to submit all forms (Immunization Records, etc.) as if they were campers. There is no cost for STA registration.
- If TA's are volunteering at a camp location that utilizes busses to reach Field Sites, carpooling with staff might occur. Because STA's are campers and subject to childcare licensing rules, carpooling with staff is not allowed. Consequently, STA's must either ride the bus to Field Sites (if camp is not sold out and there is room on the bus) or must get dropped off by their families directly at Field Sites. For simplicity, STA's are typically scheduled at locations without bussing (Sombbrero Marsh and Littleton). STA's cannot assist with camps that have an overnight experience.

Compensation:

- This is an unpaid volunteer position
- Thorne Staff is willing to fill out required forms for school credit, act as a reference for Volunteer, and/or write a letter of recommendation if requested.

Inclusiveness Statement:

Thorne believes that, to remain relevant as an organization and ensure access to joyful, hands-on, place-based Environmental Education experiences for all youth, its programs,

leadership, and participants must reflect the range of diversity, culture, and unique differences in our community.

Anti-Discrimination Statement:

Thorne Nature Experience is an equal opportunity organization. Thorne Nature Experience does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, age, national origin (ancestry), physical or mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender variance or expression, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. This Anti-Discrimination Policy applies to, but is not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers, selection of Board Members, selection of vendors, and provision of services.