



Employer: Thorne Nature Experience; Boulder, CO
Job Status: Part time, Seasonal position. One or more day(s) per week (Monday-Thursday) for 12 weeks of Fall or Spring After School season.
Pay Rate: Unpaid
Reports to: Gwen Tenney, Program Manager – Field Trip & Volunteers, Gwen@thornenature.org, 303-499-3647 ext. 103
Application Deadline: Rolling, until filled. Apply ASAP. Interviews will be held in September and January.
Application Process: **To apply, submit a Volunteer Application through Google Forms <https://goo.gl/forms/EaPzvM4CS1fhkIb72>.**

Thorne Mission and History:

Thorne Nature Experience, formerly the Thorne Ecological Institute, 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 discovery, exploration, and connection to the natural world. Founded in 1954, Thorne has a rich history and has reached more than 200,000 children and adults through its three programs: In-School Programs, Summer Camp Programs, and the BVSD 4th Grade Field Trip Program.

After-School Program Description:

In the spring of 2012, Thorne launched a new After School nature program with the goal of connecting students to the natural areas in their own backyards and schoolyards. The program has now expanded to include nine schools in two districts. The curriculum focuses on helping students to develop the skills of a naturalist and then use those skills to answer questions about the living things in their schoolyard, their neighborhood, and community around their school. Through exploration, mapping, sketching, plant and animal identification, and the use of nature journals, students will investigate and answer questions about their local ecosystem. These programs currently serve Pioneer, Ryan, and Sanchez Elementary in Lafayette; Rocky Mountain, North Ridge, and Timberline Elementary in Longmont; Columbine and University Hill Elementary in Boulder; and Emerald Elementary in Broomfield.

Fall 2017 Dates:

- Training: Tue 9/12/2017, 4-7pm, Sombrero Marsh in Boulder
- Teaching Season: September 18th – December 8th. (Excluding Thanksgiving week).

Spring 2018 Dates:

- Training: Tue 1/23/2018, 4-7pm, Sombrero Marsh in Boulder
- Teaching Season: January 29th – April 27th. (Excluding Spring Break week).

Expectation for All Volunteer and Interns:

Support the Thorne 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.

Program Purpose:

- The After School Programs Volunteers and Interns provides program support for Thorne's After School Programs in at least one elementary school, contributing to our mission of connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences. The After School Program Volunteers and Interns will have the opportunity to shadow, support, and help facilitate programs under the full guidance of an experienced educator and may support Thorne's In School Programs, as well, by constructing student-written picture books (Mini Books) for each student that participates in an In-School Program.

Principal Responsibilities:

- Attend all scheduled program dates
- Support Thorne Instructors by assisting in leading and facilitating After School Programs with the guidance of Thorne staff;
- Assist with program logistics: taking photos/video, managing students and materials;
- Act as a role model for students and teachers, illustrating appropriate behavior and environmental ethics;
- Encourage joyful, safe, meaningful, nature-based experiences for students;
- Complete all required forms and submit all required information needed by Thorne Nature Experience and/or the relevant school district.

Desired Outcomes:

- Contribute towards successful delivery of Thorne's After School Programs and the achievement of Thorne's mission.

Job Interrelationships:

- Thorne Staff
- BVSD and SVVSD Students and Elementary Teachers
- Other Thorne Volunteers and Interns
- General Public
- 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
- Good knowledge of Colorado ecology and natural science preferred
- Experience relating to and communicating with diverse audiences, especially Mexican American participants preferred
- Bi-lingual in Spanish and English encouraged to apply
- People of Color encouraged to apply

Desired Behavioral Traits and Attitudes:

- Team player, fun, outgoing, passionate, organized, creative, resourceful, critical thinker, results-oriented, and self motivated.

- Strong interest in and/or with some experience teaching environmental education in informal settings.
- Passionate about Thorne's mission and environmentally concerned and aware.
- Contribute towards Thorne's Core Value of inclusiveness, respecting the perspectives and contributions of all people
- Preference for those with or working on a High School Diploma, Bachelor's degree in Environmental Education, Environmental Studies, Biology, Geology, Education, or related field.
- Preference for those with experience or a strong desire to work with school-age children.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be 16 or older.
- Background check submitted and cleared by the Colorado Department of Human Services (Thorne pays for this).

Special Requirements:

- Must commit to working at least 2 hours/week for entire season;
- Must be available from 2:30-4:30pm or 3:30-5:00pm for the day you are scheduled.
- Attend a volunteer training day at Sombrero Marsh.

Program Dates:

- Volunteers and Interns will be matched with a school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays in Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont or Broomfield. Programs run for 12 weeks in Spring and Fall, with program hours typically from 2:30-4:30pm or 3:30-5:00pm. Programs do not occur during major holiday breaks.

Compensation:

- This is an unpaid Volunteer Position or Internship; however, you will complete 24 or more documented hours of professional environmental education experience through this position;
- Thorne Staff is willing to fill out required forms for school credit, act as a reference for Intern, and/or write a letter of recommendation, if desired.
- Successful Volunteers and Interns may have the opportunity to teach for our Summer Programs as paid instructors.

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.