**Early Childhood Internship**

**Overview:** BOPN builds joyful communities of children and teachers connected to each other and their outdoor environments through discovery and play. We believe that children are intrinsically motivated to learn, and that they do so by exploring the world around them. Our programs are located on the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum and at new locations in the North End, Fenway, and South Boston.

**Intern Role:** To assist with teaching children ages 15 months through 6 years under the supervision of experienced Lead Teachers

* *Early Childhood Career Pathway:* Internship hours at BOPN’s full-day program may count toward teacher licensure through the Department of Early Education and Care. Please let us know if you are interested in a preschool and/or toddler teacher license so that we can design the internship to meet the state requirements.
* *Outdoor Education Career Pathway:* gain skills and experience by teaching alongside an experienced outdoor educator

**Schedule and Hours:**

Internships may take place anytime between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 1 – 5 days/week. BOPN offers half-day programs at multiple locations for children ages 2.9 through 6 and a full-day program near the Arboretum for children ages 15 months through 6 years. We will work with you to come up with a schedule that best meets your learning goals and scheduling needs. Internships are typically 1 – 9 months long.

**Location:** either outdoors at the Arnold Arboretum, or at one of our new locations in the North End, Fenway, or South Boston

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

·      Nurture the spirit and curiosity of each child while promoting respect and community

·       Assist the Lead Teacher to be responsible for the health and safety of each child. This includes helping children stay comfortable in various weather conditions and managing risk in an outdoor setting

·       Use a place-based and play-based approach with children in nature

·       Gracefully and professionally communicate with teachers, parents, and the wider community

·       Attend an orientation and meet with a Lead Teacher to set goals for the internship. Do weekly check-ins, a mid-point meeting and final meeting with a Lead Teacher.

·      With guidance from a Lead Teacher, design and lead a project related to early childhood education

·       Attend professional development related to outdoor early childhood education

·       Maintain regular attendance and punctuality

**Qualifications:**

·      Strong interest in exploring the field of outdoor early childhood education

·       Curiosity about the natural world and ability to convey a sense of awe and wonder to the children

·       Embrace a wide variety of weather conditions as unique and interesting, part of the ebb and flow of the natural rhythm and seasonal changes

·       Ability to meet the physical demands of the position (including carrying a supplies bin)

**Please note:**

* This is an unpaid (volunteer) position
* Background checks and references are required
* While BOPN has a friendly relationship with the Arboretum, we are separate organizations and the Arboretum is not involved with organizing or operating BOPN's programs.