

Nature-based Early Childhood Internship at Boston Outdoor Preschool Network

Overview: We are an inspired team of teachers committed to nature immersion, interest-led learning, and authentic 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 beautiful Arnold Arboretum. We currently offer half-day preschool and will add a full-day toddler and preschool program in spring 2020. We will also offer a summer program for children up to 10 years old.

Intern Role: To assist with teaching a class of children ages 2.9 through 6 under the supervision of experienced Lead Teachers

- *Early Childhood Career Pathway:* Internship hours at BOPN can 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.
- *Environmental Education Career Pathway:* gain skills and experience by teaching alongside an environmental educator

Daily Schedule:

9 a.m.: Drop-off

- Morning circle
- Hike to an "adventure spot" (varies each day)
- Nature-play, exploration, making friends, environmental education, storytelling, respecting and caring for Earth
- Hike back

12 p.m.: pick-up

Starting in spring 2020 we are expanding our hours and can accommodate interns between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Length of internship: 1 - 6 months

Note: If you are interested in preschool or toddler Teacher licensure through the Department of Early Education and Care, the internship must be at least 12 hours per week for 6 months.

Hours:

- 2-5 half or full days per week

- February through May: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Starting in May: any hours between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We are flexible as long as the schedule is consistent each week.

Location: primarily outdoors at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Please note that 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.

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
- Learn about the flora and fauna at the Arnold Arboretum and use an inquiry-based approach with children in nature
- Gracefully and professionally communicate with teachers, parents, and Arboretum staff
- 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 environmental education
- Become familiar with the NAAEE Guidelines for Excellence in Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs and attend professional development trainings related to early childhood environmental education
- Maintain regular attendance and punctuality

Qualifications:

- Strong interest in exploring the field of nature-based 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 hiking pack and supplies bin)

Please note: This is an unpaid (volunteer) position. Background checks are required.