



INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Sustainable Stewardship Program

Are you concerned with issues of sustainability, species conservation, water quality, improving the urban quality of life and preserving natural open spaces? Are you interested in integrating nature into our urban fabric? Are you interested in gaining valuable experience working on local conservation issues and having a direct, immediate, visible impact on our urban environments? If so, San Diego Canyonlands urges you to apply for an internship with our Sustainable Stewardship Program, the first stage of our comprehensive [Canyon Enhancement Planning \(CEP\) Program](#) aimed at restoring and “sewing together” San Diego’s 200+ urban canyons. This is an excellent opportunity for students or recent graduates looking for experience in the fields of conservation and planning.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

[San Diego Canyonlands](#) (SDCL) is a local, non-profit conservation organization whose mission is “to promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County’s canyons and creeks. We do this by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations.” SDCL is seeking applicants for part-time internships that continue to implement our Sustainable Stewardship Program aimed at building local, grassroots Canyon “Friends” stewardship groups.

Since 2008, SDCL’s main program has been community organizing for the sustainable stewardship of San Diego’s canyons and creeks by establishing neighborhood-based “friends groups” for each urban canyon or creek area. The over-arching goal is achieved when a core group of residents and youth are independently conducting community outreach and organizing routine stewardship, educational and recreational events in their neighborhood canyon – in each canyon/creek area of San Diego County! SDCL inspires youth and residents to take ownership and engage in stewardship of their neighborhood canyon. They learn how they can act locally to help with regional environmental challenges such as species conservation and issues concerning polluted runoff. We empower communities to successfully transform neglected open spaces into healthier, safer natural open spaces for recreation and for use as nature classrooms. SDCL fosters an ethic of stewardship for the important natural resources through our educational tours, cleanups, and hands-on habitat restoration projects. Volunteers love to hike in and revisit their neighborhood canyons to nurture the plants they have planted and see the wildlife return to the areas they have restored.

SDCL has proven the ability to establish sustainable, independently functioning stewardship canyon groups. We’ve helped build 34 routinely active groups, 20 of which facilitate monthly events. Our overall goal for each of San Diego’s 200+ canyons is to establish independently functioning groups that are facilitating routine (ideally monthly) educational, recreational and stewardship events in their respective canyon. **Our Sustainable Stewardship Program forms the keystone** of our Canyon Enhancement Planning process, so each intern’s work will ultimately lead to comprehensive canyon planning and improvement projects, including trail improvements and habitat restoration.

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Under the direction of the Programs & Outreach Coordinator and Executive Director, and with the assistance of SDCL publications including [The Friends Group Handbook](#), [Habitat Restoration 101 Manual](#) and [Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide](#), each intern will be assigned a canyon and will be responsible for either building one new or revitalizing one dormant canyon stewardship friends group. Internship objectives are clear and laid out in SDCL program documentation. Specific responsibilities under the traditional SSPI intern program are below, but we

would like to stress that we are flexible and can adjust responsibilities based on each individual's internship agreement:

- Conduct outreach and facilitate two guided canyon tours (led by a SDCL staff member) to generate community awareness of the canyon. Organizing contact information of event attendees.
- Conduct outreach for and facilitate four stewardship events to continue to build community awareness and stewardship of the canyon. Liaise/collaborate with "I Love Clean San Diego" to serve as Site Captain for annual "Creek to Bay" (April) and/or "Coastal Cleanup" (September) events in the assigned canyon.
- Collaborate with SDCL staff and visit canyon to determine necessary stewardship work at events.
- Maintain group contact database and assist SDCL staff to recruit and train two volunteer Friends Group leaders for the canyon; liaise with new group leaders.



Internship will focus on the first step in applying SDCL's Canyon Enhancement Planning Program to the canyon area.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Recent graduate or current upper-classman working towards undergraduate or graduate degree in Geography, Urban Planning, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Biology or related field.
- Training/coursework in geography, sustainability, environmental science/studies, biology, or related field is highly recommended.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with people from a broad range of backgrounds.
- Working knowledge of California native plant species is a plus, but not required.
- Knowledge or fluency in Spanish is a definite plus, but not required.
- Ability to hike and perform physical work on uneven terrain, in challenging conditions.
- Ability to work independently and follow-through with assigned tasks.
- Proven knowledge of MS Office Suite (including Word, Excel and PowerPoint). Experience using Gmail, Google Docs and Calendar is a definite plus.
- OTHER: Access to transportation, mobile phone, laptop and internet required.

POSTION DETAILS

- Compensation: This is currently an unpaid internship position. Students can earn college credit. Ask your student advisor for more information about your school's internship-for-credit opportunities.
- Schedule (flexible time period based on internship agreement): Approximately 10 hours per week (flexible) working from choice of SDCL office, home, school, etc. Some evening/weekend work will be required.

TO APPLY

Applications for this internship are accepted on an ongoing basis. To apply, please email the following application materials to SDCL Programs & Outreach Coordinator Miranda Hyldahl (miranda@sdcanonlands.org): (1) Cover letter (one page maximum) describing relevant experience and career interests; (2) Resume; (3) List of 2-3 professional or academic references.