

Organization: Duluth Area Family YMCA Association

Location(s): This internship is available at both the YMCA at the Essentia Wellness Center in Hermantown and the Cook County YMCA in Grand Marais.



Internship Focus: **Nature Based Childcare Specialist**

Reports To: Program Director

Hours: Flexible

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The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

**Position Summary:**

This internship is intended to give students a practical, hands-on experience in early childhood development as well as nature-based education planning and implementation. The intern will assist our teachers and program directors with leading activities, preparing materials and supervising preschool aged children with nature-based learning.

**Essential Functions:**

1. Work with YMCA staff to develop curriculum and lead a variety of outdoor educational and nature-based activities.
2. Using observation and assessment tools, document each child's growth and learning in relation to their developmental level.
3. Meet children's physical and emotional needs, fostering skill-building & independence.
4. Interact with parents warmly and authenticity at pick-up and drop-off.

**Required Qualifications:**

1. Past experience working with children.
2. Strong interest in outdoor programs and nature-based education. Enthusiasm for working outdoors or open-air environments year-around.
3. Solid understanding of child development in the early years.

**Desired Qualities:**

- o Passionate and curious about teaching
- o Loves the outdoors and natural learning
- o Artful, playful and spontaneous
- o Finds joy in singing, storytelling and creative exploration
- o Familiar with play-based learning approaches
- o Warm, kind and approachable
- o Confident in working independently
- o Open and authentic in your communication
- o Good listening and keen observation skills
- o Dependable and motivated

**Compensation:**

Interns do receive a YMCA membership during their internship. They also will receive a great experience working in the non-profit sector with one of the largest non-profit organizations in the nation.

Although this internship is unpaid, we will work with you and your school to assist you in receiving college credit. It is the responsibility of the student to determine if academic credit is available through their degree program.

**Application Process:**

- YMCA Internship Application (found at [www.duluthymca.org](http://www.duluthymca.org))
- Cover Letter
- Resume
- Two letters of recommendation

**Contact Information:**

Gina Miller

Volunteer & Internship Coordinator

Duluth Area Family YMCA

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