

## Environmental Education Internship

### Description:

Improve environmental education capacity in rural Ecuador through teacher training, nature trips, and youth programs.



### Project background:

Environmental projects take place in and around the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve year round. Our collaboration with the Latino Earth Partnership (LEP) focuses on training teachers in environmental and science education. Once a year, an LEP educator comes to Ecuador for a weeklong teacher-training. Throughout the year, we work alongside teachers to implement LEP's environmental education curriculum in rural schools on the coast. With our other partner, the foundation A Mano Manaba in Don Juan, we are looking to expand the activities with the local libraries. We have weekly meetings with the students in the reserve and the library in Don Juan during summer holidays, and twice-weekly sessions during the rest of the school year. The intern will lead activities in the local schools in Tabuga and Jama. Activities include leading school visits to the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve, creating school gardens, leading environmentally themed activities in classrooms and/or libraries, giving public presentations on environmental themes in local communities, and creation of exhibits or other educational materials for use in the community library, local school, and nature center. Through working with local youth, interns become a part of the community and cultivate respect and love of the reserve and the ecosystems of coastal Ecuador.

### What will you do?

- Organize elementary school student field trips to the reserve
- Work alongside teachers who have participated in the workshop to implement environmental education at their schools
- Create and guide environmental education after-school programming with Don Juan library
- Plan educational sessions at schools or participate in already established sessions
- Visit schools to talk about the reserve and generate interest in the environmental education program and lead environmental education activities



- Organize and co-lead environmental activities in the community library and community fairs
- Plant and maintain school gardens
- Depending on the time period: help to plan and participate in a week-long Latino Earth Partnerships workshop for teachers



**What will you learn?**

- Inquiry-based and student centered pedagogical approaches
- Group facilitation and teaching skills, with children and adults
- How to implement environmental curriculum in Spanish and English based on the Latino Earth Partnerships program
- Challenges to education in a rural area of a developing country
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity in communicating and collaborating with diverse audiences

**What do we seek?**

- Fluent Spanish language ability
- Resourceful with good organizational skills
- Self-directed
- Knowledge or experience in environmental education
- Enjoys working with kids and teachers.



(For the LEP workshops, we prefer students who have knowledge of EP's curriculum, either by participating in a Madison institute or receiving training from Maria Moreno, to support LEP Ecuador teacher Institute)

\* Can be combined with the Conservation Corridor internship