Friends of Tryon Creek (FOTC) is a community-supported non-profit working, in partnership with Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), to inspire and nurture relationships with nature in our unique urban forest. We envision a collaborative, creative and engaged community where people and wildlife thrive in relationship to each other and Tryon Creek State Natural Area (TCSNA). Our intention for this special place and the people connected to it - now and in the future - inspires fun, action, well-being, and ecological and community health.

Our Nature Day Camp program aims to create experiences rooted in belonging, curiosity, and exploration. Our goal is to foster a safe and inclusive environment where campers cultivate ecological and cultural understanding while building life-long friendships in our unique, urban forest. Nature Day Camps balance camp traditions like songs, skits, hikes, crafts, and games with hands-on field studies designed to enhance science education and connection to the natural world.

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic, responsible, and environmentally motivated person for our Counselor in Training (CIT) and Wilderness Explorer Training (WET) internship position. This position will support the Instructor in helping campers discover the forest through hikes, crafts, games, songs, visits to bridges, collecting creek data, sharing stories, and learning more about our forest ecosystem. Throughout the summer, they work with campers to develop friendships, explore the forest, and create spaces where everyone can belong.

CIT and WET programs are designed for children ages 11 to 14 and are the perfect transition between camper, volunteer Counselor, and beyond! Camp programs alter from week to week and the Instructor will be leading camps based on the summer camp schedule: [2020 Summer Camp at Tryon Creek](#)

**CIT program** focuses on leadership, teambuilding, and community activism, and looking at our urban forest through a different perspective. These leadership camps bring participants together with a skilled Instructor to explore what it is to be a leader, team members, and friend while learning new skills, building community, and looking at our urban forest through a different perspective. Longer hikes and in-depth ecological explorations keep camp traditions alive, while activities with both half and full day camp groups build skills in leadership and teamwork.

**WET program** is designed for emerging outdoor enthusiast interested in gaining in-depth knowledge about themselves and the natural world through developing stronger nature exploration skills. Using advanced programming, longer hikes, ecological activities, and inquiry-based dialogue, these camps will focus on interpreting place-based information through identifying environmental clues and signs. Wilderness Explorers will have fun through engaging activities to help campers rediscover the lost art of reading nature clues while fostering a camper’s self-reliance, leadership skills, and ecological stewardship.
CIT/WET Internship Job Responsibilities

- Support CIT/WET Instructor in activities designed to build knowledge, comfort, and community in an outdoor setting. Specific camp activities include hikes, crafts, games, songs, skits, and free-choice exploration.
- Manage a positive camp culture that values the perspective, needs, and knowledge of all participants through the use of age/developmentally appropriate techniques.
- Complete daily setup/cleanup of materials for camp activities, designate group roles and assign camper roles.
- Independently make decisions to ensure the physical and emotional safety of every camper.
- Report all accidents/ incidents to the instructor immediately and provide information for necessary forms.
- Communicate perspective and needs with a collaborative team of peers.
- Follow FOTC’s strategies for valuing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in all aspects of camp, as outlined in our organizational equity statement (see below).
- Maintain professional and informative relationship with camp families.
- Maintain general cleanliness and conditions of camp facilities and materials.
- Assist with the enforcement of all camp and State Park rules and policies.
- Assist in documentation and evaluation of camp programs.
- Cultivate and maintain open communication with CIT/WET Instructor.

CIT/WET Internship Required Qualifications

- For CIT/WET camp Lead, at least six months of experience outdoor youth education.
- Must be 18 years or older at the start of employment.
- Current CPR and First Aid certification and Epi-Pen certification, or be available to take training for required certifications provided by FOTC.
- Able to commit to the entire camp season, including all training sessions.
- Commitment to incorporating DEI into all aspects of camp.
- Respect children's ideas and opinions and help develop their sense of autonomy.
- Respect all people, practice humility and a commitment to grow alongside others in a busy work environment.
- Be a daily participant in staff communal knowledge building and base your actions upon these theories, and reflect on results to formulate new theories with staff co-learners.
- Cultivate and maintain open communication by sharing concerns and needs with the Day Camp Director.
- Able to refocus children's emotional and physical awareness of group camp activities.
- The ability to work with diverse people and cultures than their own.

CIT/WET Internship Preferred Skills/Knowledge

- Education and/or experience in early child development, child education, outdoor education, or equivalent field.
- Enthusiasm for working with children of all ages.
- Experience working with youth, especially in outdoor/non-traditional settings.
- Knowledge of inclusive practices in education/youth recreation.
Commitment to incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion into all aspects of camp

Experience working as part of a multifaceted team

Ability to work with youth at all levels of learning and communications from highly functioning to those with special needs

Comfort with independent leadership and decision-making

Ability to remain positive and thrive in fast-paced environments and to resolve conflict, when it arises

Stipend and Benefits

This internship receives a stipend of $1500 (payment schedule TBD). FOTC Interns are welcomed into the camp staff as a valued member of our community, receiving training and mentorship throughout the summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the field of environmental education while working with a community based non-profit agency and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Dates of Employment

**June 8 through August 28.** This schedule begins with no campers present for training Monday through Thursday (9:00 AM to 4:30 PM) and camp set-up on Friday (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM) for a total of 32 hours. There will be a 5-day camp during the week of July 4th. For more information about general camp schedules and themes, please check out our summer offerings here: [2020 Summer Camp at Tryon Creek](#)

How to Apply

Send resume and cover letter with your supplemental questions below to daycamp@tryonfriends.org with “CIT/WET Internship Application” in the subject line. You can also mail to the park: c/o Day Camp Director 11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd. Portland, Oregon 97219. Due on 3/31/20 and selected applicants will be interviewed on Friday, April 17, 2020

Please note that your cover letter should include answers to the following questions:

- Why do you want to work as an intern with Friends of Tryon Creek?
- How does this position fit within your current and future goals?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience?

**CIT/ WET INTERNSHIP**

**Staff Hours:** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday–Friday

**Camper Ages:** 6–12

**In Groups:** up to 12 campers

**Campers on Site:** 9 AM–3 PM

**CIT & WET camp weeks:** Camp programs alter from week and are not offered within the same week. To see the complete descriptions of camps themes and schedules the internship will be assisting the instructor in leading, please see summer offerings: [2020 Summer Camp at Tryon Creek](#)
FOTC Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Statement

Friends of Tryon Creek is committed to acknowledging social justice, identity, and power structures in past and present settings through diverse perspectives. For us, this means all programs employ an equity framework, incorporating diversity training and workshops throughout our extended community, including board, staff and volunteer base. We seek to support our whole community in their effort to reclaim, reconnect and build relationships with the natural world. Our commitment is built and sustained through authentic partnerships with communities of color, culturally-specific organizations, and other historically under-represented groups.

Friends of Tryon Creek is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin or any other basis covered by appropriate laws.