Children’s Pollinator Garden Education

Create self-guided inquiry lessons and activities in the Children’s Garden for K-3rd grade children to engage in with their parents or other individuals. The lessons will be in children’s backpacks for use in the garden. Through this internship the intern will develop leadership skills through real-world experiences building a foundation in leadership that extends into their career.

Qualifications

1. Minimum qualifications: Rising juniors and seniors from LSU and partner institutions studying agriculture education with at least a 3.0 GPA are most competitive. Second-year students and those with a minimum 2.5 GPA are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

2. Preferred qualifications: Prior personal or work-related experience involving pollinator gardens and educational programming young children (K-3rd grade). The intern should enjoy working with children. Good interpersonal, communication, organizational, teamwork and time management skills are essential.

3. Physical qualifications: The intern should be willing to work up to 10 hours a week in the heat and humidity and tolerate mosquitoes and other biting insects in the summer.

Primary Contact/Mentor: Jeff Kuehny, Director; Sarah Rayner, Education Coordinator; LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Maximum Interns Needed: 1

Weeks 1-2

Primary Tasks:

- Participate in Leaning by Leading™ internship program orientation at the Botanic Gardens
- Meet with the Mentors, Co-Coordinators, Interns and Director
- Submit a resume
- Tour Burden Museum & Gardens and meet the staff. Learn about the history of the Burden Family and the property, specialty gardens, Burden Woods, Barton Arboretum, Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens.
- Meet with Mentor and Co-Coordinators once per week, identify and review internship leadership goals and overall goals for the internship
- Tour the Children’s Garden and develop a knowledge of the diversity of pollinator plants, host plants, herbs and seasonal vegetables in the gardens through working in the garden and using online resources
• Review information on LSU Botanic Garden’s Educator’s Corner to become familiar with programs and materials offered to educators and students
• Gain an understanding of the life cycles of bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and dragonflies that frequent the pollinator garden using online resources and use the information when constructing lesson plans and activities
• Assist Staff working in the Children’s Garden
• Brainstorm sessions for signature project
• Develop and plan signature project
• Meet with Director to review the signature project

Weeks 3 - 9:
Primary Tasks:
• Meet with Mentor and Co-Coordinators once per week, review and update leadership goals and overall goals, progress report on special project
• Begin to implement signature project
• Develop presentation on signature project
• Create meaningful and exciting interactive lessons with activities that correlate with the Science Standards in Education for three educational backpack adventures in the Children’s Garden
• Present the signature project Backpack Adventures

Week 10:
Primary Tasks:
• Review and evaluate leadership goals and overall goals
• Attend Exit Internship Seminars with presentations on signature project
• Present signature project
• Participate in a reflective discussion on internship experience
• Modify resume based on internship experience
• Complete an exit interview with the Director and Mentor

Success Measures
• Interns will meet every week with Mentors and Co-Coordinators for a brief
evaluation of the internship experience. During the evaluation, interns will discuss what they have accomplished, identify where they need assistance, share future plans, and reflect upon the overall experience.

- Develop and complete internship leadership goals and overall goals
- Develop, implement and complete a signature project
- Each Mentor and Co-Coordinator will evaluate the intern’s performance based on pre-determined criteria.