



RMFI Environmental Leadership Internship 2010

Earn college credit and \$1,000 AmeriCorps scholarship while spending time outside improving your outdoor leadership skills with this fun, nontraditional internship!

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is an environmental non-profit dedicated to the preservation and restoration of key wildlands in Southern Colorado. RMFI's Environmental Leadership Internship is a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to gain hands-on experience leading field-based restoration projects. Student interns will act as junior-level field staff and participate in the planning and implementation of RMFI's restoration programs, including *Garden of the Gods Community Restoration and Stewardship Project*, *South Colony Lakes Basin Campsite Restoration Project*, *Fountain Creek Restoration Project*, and *Shelf Road Restoration Project*.

The internship runs July 2010 – December 2010. Interns are required to participate in RMFI's *Earth Corps* program, a 30-day for-credit environmental service opportunity for undergraduate students. Please see RMFI website for more information regarding *Earth Corps* 2010. Upon successful completion of *Earth Corps*, interns will commence as junior-level field staff, assisting senior staff with field program implementation. Not including *Earth Corps*, interns must complete at least 60 hours of work to successfully finish the internship. Upon successful completion of required hours, interns will receive an AmeriCorps scholarship.* Interns will have flexibility in determining how to complete the remaining 60 hours after *Earth Corps*. The internship requires full-time work during *Earth Corps* (July 9 - August 7) and reduces to part-time during the academic year. Office time and research projects can also be arranged to complete hours. Outstanding interns will have the opportunity to be hired as field staff for the 2011 season.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE:

July 9 – August 7, 2010: Earth Corps Program (required)

September 1 – September 4, 2010: South Colony Lakes Basin

October 9 – 10, 2010: Shelf Road

Weekends in October and November 2010: Garden of the Gods, Fountain Creek

REQUIREMENTS:

The internship is open to undergraduate students in the Colorado Springs area. The program requires strenuous fieldwork, often in inclement weather. Interns must be comfortable backpacking, camping, and working in the Colorado backcountry at high elevations. Wilderness

First Responder certification preferred, but not required. Students studying environmental science, environmental policy, or a natural science major are encouraged.

COMPENSATION:

While this internship is unpaid, interns will receive 4 credit hours in Field Studies in Geography through the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for participation in *Earth Corps*. Upon successful completion of the internship, students will receive a \$1,000 AmeriCorps scholarship.*

TO APPLY:

Intern applicants **MUST** apply to *Earth Corps* 2010. A complete *Earth Corps* application includes a resume, cover letter, and program application. With your *Earth Corps* application, please send an additional cover letter addressing your qualifications and expressing your interest to participate in the Environmental Leadership Internship.

Please contact RMFI for *Earth Corps* application materials, or visit www.rmfi.org. The deadline for applying to *Earth Corps* is March 24th. Final decisions will be announced by April 2nd. Environmental Leadership Internship recipients will be notified by April 2nd. Outstanding applicants will be awarded placement in advance of the deadline. Early applications are, therefore, strongly encouraged.

THE ORGANIZATION:

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is a non-profit organization focusing on environmental service and education. Founded in 1989, RMFI has been working to address critical land preservation and restoration issues at key natural areas in the Southern Rocky Mountain Region. Working in concert with federal, state, and local land management agencies, RMFI has provided leadership for several major restoration initiatives. This includes the effort to address recreational impacts in the South Colony Lakes Basin, a headwater basin in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area. RMFI's work in the South Colony Lakes Basin has set a standard for how popular wilderness areas should be restored and protected. RMFI's *Garden of the Gods Community Restoration and Stewardship Project* has received acclaim for mobilizing thousands of community volunteers to restore severely degraded sites within the Garden of the Gods Park, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Rocky Mountain region. RMFI is currently overseeing the *Pikes Peak Watershed Protection and Restoration Project*, a program addressing stream and wetland damage from sediment runoff from the Pikes Peak Highway. RMFI's focus on environmental education, integrated into every service project, sets it apart from other volunteer organizations.

*AMERICORPS SCHOLARSHIP:

\$1,000 AmeriCorps scholarships are awarded to students who complete 300 hours of volunteer work. This education award must be used for undergraduate or graduate school tuition, or to pay off eligible students loans.

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