

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & TEACHER TRAINING INTERNSHIP

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



Project summary: Lack of knowledge and awareness about the environment is one reason why conservation is such a challenge. Ceiba has recently partnered with Latino Earth Partnerships to offer training to teachers in environmental and science education. An intern is needed to assist in planning and implementing a week-long teacher training workshop with LEP educator Maria Moreno, and then to work alongside teachers to implement LEP's environmental education curriculum in rural schools on the coast. These trainings will be offered in the summer of 2017 and again in the fall of 2017. The intern may also participate in ongoing

environmental education activities associated with the Lalo Loor reserve, including leading school visits to the Lalo Loor forest reserve, creating school gardens, leading environmentally themed activities in classrooms, 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. The intern will also compile LEP and other environmental lesson plans into a book for use by local teachers. 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. We need motivated interns with good Spanish skills and an interest in working with children and teachers.

What you'll do:

- Plan and participate in a week-long Latino Earth Partnerships workshop for teachers, to take place in Quito
- Work alongside teachers who have participated in the workshop to implement environmental education in their classrooms
- Evaluate teachers' environmental education skills and practices, before and after the workshop
- Compile environmental education activities into a Spanish language environmental education textbook (in progress)
- Visit schools to talk about the reserve to generate interest in the environmental education program and to lead environmental education activities
- Create environmental education themed after school programming
- Guide elementary school students during field trips to the reserve
- Organize and co-lead environmental activities in the community library, at community fairs, and in other forums
- Plant and maintain school gardens

What you'll 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, compared to the U.S. system
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity in communicating and collaborating with diverse audiences

What we seek: Spanish language ability; resourceful with good organizational skills; self-directed; knowledge or experience in environmental education, enjoys working with kids and teachers.