

July 29, 2020

Re: Internship programming for 10-12th grade students during SY 2020-2021

Dear Aldo Families:

I'm excited about the coming school year, and I want share with you what is on the horizon for students in the internship program! Internship offerings will include Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Community Internship opportunities, and dual-credit work. Internships will run on Fridays 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified by you and your mentor. **The first day of internship is Friday, August 21.** I will be reaching out to each of you in advance to design a placement that best fits your student's needs. Here is a general overview of how students will be placed followed by specifics for each type of internship.

In order to gain internship credit, students need to complete at least **72 hours** of internship by the end of the semester. Students are required to: complete a weekly online journal entry submitted to Google classroom, gain a participation grade given by their mentor, turn in timesheets verified by their mentor via email, and complete an end-of-semester internship presentation for our virtual internship showcase.

Here are the types of internships that will be offered by grade level:

10th grade: As per Mr. Sherwood's request, I will be placing all 10th graders in YCC internships. You will have a choice of trails, murals, eco-monitoring, and garden crews.

11th graders: The majority of 11th graders will be placed in community internships or given credit for vocational dual-enrollment coursework. I have a number of businesses that are already requesting interns. It will be an exciting semester!

12th grade: Some of you will be serving as YCC crew leaders. Those who are not serving in this capacity will be placed in community internships or receive credit for your dual-credit coursework in a chosen vocation.

The details on each type of internship:

YCC is a paid internship that provides students with the opportunity to develop basic job skills and specialized training. In the spring, YCC was deemed an essential business by the State of New Mexico and as such ALCS developed COVID-19 safety protocol that goes above and beyond the state YCC safety recommendations. This protocol has been reviewed by the ALCS Risk Management Team and has been implemented in our summer program with great success since May 18, 2020. Your student will receive complete information regarding these COVID-19 safe practices with their crew application.

YCC Crew Activities for Fall 2020:

Trails: Under the direction of JB Bjornstad, crew members will continue to work on the trail and erosion control projects next to Ritch Hall. This project teaches crew members about trail design, drystack building, water catchment strategies, teamwork, tool care, and so much more.

Murals: Diana Ingalls-Leyba is looking forward to completing the Dia de los Muertos mural just outside the Silver City Museum and the possibility of designing and installing murals for the WNMU Early Childhood Education building and Penny Park. You will gain skills in mural design and using paint and ceramic media.

Garden: With the expert guidance of Tricia Hurley this crew will design and install gardens at Centennial Hall & Ritch Hall on the WNMU campus, maintain the pollinator garden at the 10th Street median and the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, and establish a new greenhouse at the school. Crew members will gain instruction in the design and installation process, native plants, pollinators, seed collection, and sustainable gardening practices.

Eco-monitoring: Under the expertise of Carol and Mike Fugagli, eco-monitoring crew members will gain skills in water quality monitoring, bird banding, mapping, understanding riparian ecosystems, and so much more. Students will also develop teaching strategies and materials, create educational films, and make their instructional tools available for community use.

Community Internships:

In conjunction with community mentors, I look forward to building student-interest driven internship placements with community businesses and organizations in accordance with the most current New Mexico Department of Health guidelines. I will work with each student and family to discuss student career interests and then reach out to our community partners to inquire about opportunities. Each internship position will be discussed with the student, the family, and the mentor to meet the needs of all involved.

Dual-credit vocational training through area post-secondary institutions:

Students can gain internship credit by completing a course or coursework that leads to certification such as welding, nursing or other medical training, childcare provider, construction trades, and wilderness leadership. These course offerings may be found on the Western New Mexico University or Dona Ana Community College website. Please contact our counselor, Cheryl Head to register for a course. chead@aldocs.org.

Once your internship placement has been established, I will place students in either the YCC internship or Community Internship class in Google classroom.

Please be sure to accept my invitation. This is vital so that you receive assignments and announcements.

We are 78 students strong in the internship program! I look forward to speaking with each of you in the coming days.

All the best,

Catalina Claussen, Internship Coordinator

Feel free to contact me via email or by phone during regular school hours.

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