



Naturalist Internship – Summer 2023

Habitat Restoration Training and California Naturalist Certification Program

Grassroots Ecology is a non-profit with over 30 years of experience engaging and educating the community to restore local ecosystems in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. We focus on habitat restoration, increasing native plant cover, invasive plant control, creek and watershed stewardship, environmental education, and volunteer engagement.

Description

Grassroots Ecology's 9-week Naturalist Internship gives college students and recent graduates an opportunity to explore a career in environmental conservation and to deepen their understanding of California natural history. Through outdoor education and hands-on field training, interns will gain local ecological knowledge, habitat restoration skills, a robust professional network, and valuable experience in the environmental field. Upon completion of the internship, interns earn the California Naturalist certification, an education and skills certificate recognized statewide. This certification is offered in partnership with the [UC California Naturalist Program](#), whose mission is to foster a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of California's natural resources through education and service.

Program Details

- **June 21 - August 18, 2023:** On-site attendance is required on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Each week, there will be 14 hours of in-person sessions and 2-4 additional hours of independent work.
- There is a mandatory **2.5-hour, remote orientation** to be scheduled the week of June 5-9, 2023.
- **Mondays, 9am-1pm - Education Days:** Experiential learning, presentations, and reading discussions on topics such as California plants, wildlife, watersheds, geology, land management, nature interpretation, and environmental justice.
- **Wednesdays & Fridays, 8am-1pm - Field Days:** Habitat restoration in a variety of local ecosystems. Fieldwork includes removing invasive plant species, caring for native plants, and performing ecological surveys.
- Each day of the internship will be held outdoors at **one of Grassroots Ecology's 20+ project sites** in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The times above do not include drive time, which can be significant.
- With an assigned mentor, each intern will complete a **capstone project** and give a final presentation.
- Interns will contribute to a community science project and engage in leadership responsibilities.
- This internship is **cohort-based** and will consist of 10-12 interns who will work and learn as a group.

Qualifications

- Current community college/university-enrolled student or recent graduate
- Experience or interest in restoring local ecosystems and learning about the natural world
- Self-motivated, eager to learn, and passionate about pursuing a career in the environmental field
- Enthusiastic about working as part of a team and building inclusive community outdoors
- Ability to communicate clearly and professionally, and interest in developing leadership and public speaking skills
- Ability to work outside in physically demanding and harsh summer conditions for multiple hours
- Ability to commute to varied restoration sites, including those inaccessible by public transportation

Compensation

This is an unpaid internship focused on training and knowledge-building. Interns receive the California Naturalist certification free of charge (a value of \$480). Interns will receive a \$200 mileage stipend to help cover transportation costs. If applicable, interns are also encouraged to pursue academic credit.

How to Apply

Complete the application through the online form [here](#). **Applications are due by Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 11:59 PM.** Interviews with selected candidates will be held in late March. Final decisions will be communicated to all applicants by Friday, April 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Grassroots Ecology values the participation of people from all identities and backgrounds. We recognize that there have historically been many barriers keeping certain communities from participating in environmental activities and programs. We strongly encourage people who identify as BIPOC, LGBTIQ+, first-generation college students, and other groups underrepresented in the environmental field to apply.