



## **Internship Opportunity: Horticulture Intern**

Duration: 3–6 months (flexible schedule; unpaid, school credit possible with approval)

### **About the Internship**

The Environmental Nature Center offers a hands-on horticulture internship for individuals interested in California native plants, habitat restoration, and outdoor environmental work. Interns work closely with the Horticulture/Grounds team to support daily operations at our Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary.

This internship is an excellent opportunity to gain real-world experience in a supportive, outdoor-focused environment while contributing meaningfully to ecological health and community education.

### **Learning Objectives**

Interns will apply ecological concepts, horticulture techniques, and problem-solving skills to help maintain and restore native plant habitats while developing teamwork and communication skills in a professional setting.

### **Intern Responsibilities May Include:**

#### Plant Maintenance

- Learn proper pruning and trimming techniques for trees, shrubs, and perennial/annual plants
- Understand how different environments influence plant growth and development
- Assist with weed management and invasive species control
- Maintain container-grown plants
- Monitor plants for pests, disease, and abnormalities

#### Plant Identification

- Learn common California native trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals
- Identify major Southern California native plant communities and indicative species
- Learn to recognize invasive and non-native species

#### Planting & Restoration

- Learn correct planting and transplanting methods
- Assist with watering and establishing newly planted material
- Support native habitat restoration projects

#### Irrigation

- Learn irrigation best practices for different plant communities
- Assist with irrigation system monitoring, maintenance, and troubleshooting

## Tools & Equipment

- Learn safe and proper use of hand and power tools
- Assist with upkeep and maintenance of horticulture equipment
- Follow all safety protocols and procedures

## Trail & Grounds Maintenance

- Assist with trail maintenance, repairs, and outdoor learning space upkeep

## Nursery & Propagation

- Learn basic propagation techniques for regional native plants
- Assist with nursery organization and plant care

## Internship Project

- Propose and complete one special project of the intern's choice (with approval), from planning through execution

## Who This Internship Is For

- Individuals interested in horticulture, native plants, ecology, or environmental stewardship
- Those who enjoy working outdoors and as part of a team
- Applicants who are motivated, dependable, and eager to learn
- Applicants currently enrolled in (or recently completed) a high school, college, or vocational program or with relevant experience in gardening, horticulture, or environmental work

## What You'll Gain

- Practical, hands-on experience in horticulture and habitat restoration
- Exposure to professional land stewardship in a nonprofit setting
- Opportunities for school credit (if applicable)
- Resume-building experience and professional references
- A meaningful role supporting ecological health and environmental education in Newport Beach

## Requirements

- Comfortable working outdoors in varying weather conditions
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds
- Ability to work mornings and occasional weekends
- Positive attitude and willingness to follow direction from the Horticulture Manager
- Basic familiarity with landscape tools preferred (training provided)

## Application Information

All applicants must complete the ENC internship application. Resumes may be submitted as a supplement but not in place of the application.

Apply online:  <https://encenter.org/volunteer-enc/internships>

For additional information, please call (949) 645-8489 or visit [www.encenter.org](http://www.encenter.org).

The Environmental Nature Center is an equal opportunity employer.