

2012 Academic Proposal

Lauren Ehler (258231)

**Company Description:**

The River's Institute is a corporation dedicated to educating children basic environmental skills by teaching them specifically the natural and cultural history of the river environments. This institute reaches out to both current and future students as well as the general community.

I was given the information about the River's Institutes summer internship through one of my Education professors. She explained to me how great of a fit this program would be not only for my personality but for my major, since I will be working with children of all ages. After receiving an offer from this corporation, I felt fortunate to have the opportunity to further my experience working with children and look forward to working with the River's Institute this summer.

**Learning Goals:**

1. My first goal I have for the internship is to expand my teaching skills by having the capability to confidently work with children of all ages. As an Elementary Education major this is a vital skill to obtain. Through the River's Institute I will work with a variety of age groups from the ages of 4 to 18. I will also have the opportunity to work with veteran teachers and learn first-hand what this occupation is like through their personal experiences. Through this opportunity I will not only be able to obtain a variety of educational techniques for all ages but also discover which age group works best for me.

2. My second goal is to affectively work with children in different atmospheres particularly the outdoors. Throughout the summer the children will be in a variety of settings including the YMCA, the Science Center, but mainly the outdoors. The River's Institute purposely structures most of the children's activities to be outdoors. This will serve as a great benefit for myself for I will be able to adapt to a more relaxed environment while gaining crucial incite of what helps children learn.

3. My third goal is to promote a strong foundation of environmental education to the children. Through working with the River's Institute I will have the capability to educate children of all ages through hands on projects and activities. Therefore, I will not only have the capability to help children understand our environment but also emphasize the importance of taking care of nature.

**Activities, Tasks and Projects:**

As a camp counselor I will have a variety of responsibilities which will enable me to complete each of my goals. This position includes leading and guiding children through a variety of activities while also working with fellow staff. I will be expected to collaborate with peers and come up with creative activities in order to ensure the children will have a great experience. In addition, it is also my responsibility to help plan and coordinate each of these three camps with the other counselors as well as the other staff members. Lastly, I am to supervise the children to guarantee their safety.

**Course Work:**

As a now Junior at Hanover College, I have been given the opportunity to take many courses that will greatly contribute to my internship. The courses are as follows:

EDU101 -- Inquiry in Education  
EDU221 -- Foundations of Education  
EDU230 -- Instruction Diverse Learning  
MAT 212 -- Mathematics for Elementary Teachers  
BIO165 -- Concepts of Biology  
ENG 243—Survey I: Early Literature

**On-Site Supervision:**

My internship with the Rivers Institute will begin on June 4<sup>th</sup> where Mrs. Merry Ross will hold an orientation meeting. During this session we will learn our expectations as well as the common procedures we are to complete in each of the camps. We will use this whole week of preparation to acquire explicit training for the program and to become CPR certified. The summer schedule dates include:

High School Academy: June 10-15, 2012  
River Camp for Kids: June 18-22, June 25-29, July 9-13, 2012  
Teacher Academy: July 9-13, 2012

Throughout the summer Mrs. Ross will be supervising, and delegating all of the staffs' tasks, serving as the main source of communication. Each staff member will have her contact information and will be able to reach her as needed. During the week of July 16th, Mrs. Ross will hold individual debriefing meetings to go over with each member of the staff the positives and negatives of the summer as a whole. This will also include her personal evaluation of each individual's performance, along with any suggestions for next year's camps.

**Faculty Supervision:**

Merry Ross: I have had the opportunity to work with her during the Rivers Institute Field Trips and am comfortable communicating with her. I know my expectations and am excited to work with her again. Our main form of contact will be through e-mail and meetings. I will be meeting with her a few days prior to the start date as well to prepare for the internship.

[rossm@hanover.edu](mailto:rossm@hanover.edu)

812-866-7493

Debbie Hanson: Professor Hanson is my faculty advisor for my major. I will be in contact with Debbie during my internship and she will act as my advisor for my receiving credit. I will notify her at various points about how my internship is going and keep her updated on my progress.

[hanoson@hanover.edu](mailto:hanoson@hanover.edu)

812-866-7393

**Reading Requirement:**

*The Power of Play* By: David Elkhind

*Last Child in the Woods* By: Richard Louv

*Flush* By: Carl Hiaasen

**Academic Work:**

I understand that the completion of presentation, reflections, and final essay is required at the completion of my internship.

**Grading:**

25% Presentation

25% On-site evaluation

25% Reflections

25% Final Paper

**Date for Internship Presentation: TBA**