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INTRODUCTION TO BOULDER PARKS AND RECREATION

Boulder, Colorado is a beautiful town nestled against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Located 30 miles northwest of Denver, it boasts a pleasant climate and wonderful scenery. Boulder is the home to the University of Colorado, and has an exceptionally recreation-minded population of approximately 100,000 citizens.

The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department consists of three Divisions: Administration, Recreation, and Parks and Planning. The Department maintains 85 urban parks, the Boulder Reservoir and its surrounding wetlands, the Flatirons Golf Course, Boulder's downtown pedestrian mall, three full-service recreation centers, numerous park shelters, two outdoor pools, three athletic complexes, skating park and a popular creek-side trail corridor. The Department offers a comprehensive program of recreation activities for all ages and abilities.

Each full-service recreation center has an indoor pool, hot tub, sauna/steam room, weight room, gymnasium, locker rooms, racquetball/handball courts, dance studio, meeting rooms, outdoor sand volleyball courts, and outdoor tennis courts. The North Boulder Recreation Center also has a state-of-the-art gymnastics center and child care. The South Boulder Recreation Center offers an outdoor disc golf course. The East Boulder Community Center has an indoor rock climbing wall and child care.

Within the Parks and Recreation Department there are nine program areas in which an intern may gain experience. These are:

1. Programs Administrator – East Boulder Community Center
2. Pottery/ Arts Programming and Facility Operations
3. Golf Course Management
4. Parks and Planning: Construction, Planning, Cultural Assets and Urban Parks
5. Urban Forestry
6. Urban Resources
7. Fitness/ Wellness/ Health Promotions
8. Sports
9. Therapeutic Recreation
10. Youth Services Initiative Program
11. Outdoor Recreation Programming and Facility Operations – Boulder Reservoir
12. Aquatics Intern – Indoor/Outdoor Operations
13. Facility Management and Operations

In addition, there are limited internship opportunities and special projects with the Parks and Planning and Marketing for individuals with relevant education, skills, and interests.

INTERNSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This guide provides information concerning policies and procedures for students wishing to intern with the city of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.

The principle purpose of the Parks and Recreation Internship Program is to assist students in making an effective transition from the classroom to the professional world. It is designed to give students the opportunity to explore the parks and recreation field and discover where their interests lie.

The Department's goal is to provide an opportunity to gain practical experience under professional leadership. Our Parks and Recreation department wishes to make the internship experience a success.

Supervision is the key to a successful internship program. The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department is able to assume full responsibility for the supervision of the intern. Each of the current supervisory staff has at least two years of experience in the field of parks and recreation. Each remains open to new ideas and creative ways to program activities and manage facilities. In addition, there are five nationally Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) supervising the Therapeutic Recreation programs.

It is our goal to provide exceptional and efficient customer service to the individuals who use our facilities, participate in our programs, and visit our public lands. We also communicate courteously and responsively with the public, coworkers, and volunteers. This component enhances your opportunities for future employment in the field of Parks and Recreation. Use this guide as an information resource throughout your internship experience with the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.

BENEFITS OFFERED TO THE INTERN

1. Unlimited use of recreation centers, the reservoir and outdoor pools during the internship.
2. Free admission to one class of the intern's choice.

BOULDER HOUSING RESOURCES

Boulder housing information is available at [craigslist.com colorado/boulder](http://craigslist.com/colorado/boulder), rent.com, [boulder newspaper - camera.com/classified](http://bouldernewspaper-camera.com/classified), and [housing helpers.com](http://housinghelpers.com)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ADVISOR

1. Understand the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department programs, goals, and objectives to facilitate appropriate intern placements with the City of Boulder.
2. Inform interns of the proper procedure to secure an internship.
3. Observe, supervise, evaluate and counsel the student during the internship through formal visitation (for in-state students) or by telephone (for out-of-state students), preferably twice for each student.
4. Boulder Parks and Recreation Department will provide a City of Boulder Agreement for Affiliation, to be completed by the intern advisor before beginning the internship. Addendums to the contract must be submitted two months prior to the start of the internship.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION INTERN SUPERVISOR

1. Provide an opportunity to gain practical experience under professional leadership.
2. Provide a formalized and professional orientation program.
3. Gradually educate the intern about the Department's programs and facilities. Acquaint the intern with the resources, policies, regulations, and administrative procedures of the Department.
4. Provide a broad, well-rounded experience for the intern.
5. Encourage the intern to participate in as many leadership opportunities as possible.
6. Assign specific projects and experiences to be accomplished during the internship.

7. Provide constructive and complete performance evaluations (mid-internship and post-internship).
8. Schedule conferences with the intern as appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INTERN

1. The intern will have had sufficient education, practical work experience and observation experience to fulfill their university's requirements for internship eligibility.
2. Prospective interns will arrange for a formal meeting with the internship supervisor from the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department. (In case of an out-of-state student, a phone interview will be scheduled).
3. Interns will not be paid for their agreed internship contract dates. The intern will have no conflicting commitments during the internship. Interns must be available to work at all times, including weekdays, evenings and weekends as scheduled by the intern supervisor.
4. The intern will know and adhere to the City of Boulder's policies and procedures.
5. The intern will learn the organizational structure of the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.
6. The intern is responsible for his/her own transportation, room, and board. We provide interns reimbursement on a local monthly bus pass and encourage use of alternative transportation.
7. The intern must complete written mid and post-internship evaluations of his/her experience.
8. The intern must carry medical insurance. The intern will be required to provide a criminal background check. If the intern works with children, they will be subject to an FBI (out of state only) and Central Registry (in state only) background check. This extensive background check is required by the State of Colorado Social Services Department. If interns will be driving during their internship experience, they will be required to provide proof of an acceptable driving history. The agency will pay for all background checks required for the internship position.
9. As of March 1, 2007, all interns must sign an Immigration Status Affidavit before they begin their internship with Boulder Parks and Recreation.

INTERN SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Demonstrated creative leadership.

2. High standards or excellence in performing duties.
3. ENTHUSIASM! – profound interest in the field of Parks and Recreation.
4. INITIATIVE!
5. Good Judgement.
6. Ability to adapt to new situations calmly and effectively.
7. Neat and appropriate appearance.
8. Ability to maintain good rapport with supervisors, co-workers, and the public.
9. Dependability and responsibility.
10. Good written and verbal communication skills.
11. Acceptance and understanding of the stated internship responsibilities.

Intern Application Deadlines:

Spring – September 15

Summer – Jan 15

Fall – June 15

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Programs Administrator - East Boulder Community Center

Teri Olander, CPRP, Recreation Administrator

Phone: (303) 413-3429

E-mail: OlanderT@bouldercolorado.gov

The intern will gain experience in staff development and management, budget preparation and management, brochure preparation, purchasing procedures, staff meetings, special projects, program development and evaluation, facility management operation and maintenance and will assist with related duties at the North Boulder Recreation Center. An intern can also expect to assist with program coordination for the pottery lab, gymnastics, yoga, fitness/wellness programs, cultural and leisure activities, dance classes, and “Performances in the Parks” during the summer.

Programs under the review of this administrator are: Yoga, Fitness/Wellness, Gymnastics, Child Care, Weight Room Operations, Youth and Adult Dance, Pottery Lab and classes, and Art Programs.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall

Pottery/ Arts Programming and Facility Operations – Boulder Pottery Lab

Nancy Utterback, Program Coordinator

Phone: (303) 441-3446

E-mail: UtterbackN@bouldercolorado.gov

The intern will learn how to program art and pottery and how to manage the pottery facility through the Parks & Recreation Department. They will get hands on experience in class scheduling, budgeting, preparing the recreation guide, facility management, supervising staff, firing kilns, mixing glazes, equipment design and repair, teaching classes and working as a camp counselor/ supervisor. Intern must possess great customer service skills, problem solving skills and an interest in learning all aspects of running an art and pottery program.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall

Golf Course Management

Supervised by Dave Brown, Golf Course Superintendent

Phone: (303) 443-5171

E-mail: brownd@bouldercolorado.gov

Interns will gain valuable, hands-on experience in golf course management. Activities include: daily mowing and irrigation scheduling, crew training and supervision, fertilization methods, turf aeration, top dressing, pest control, budget management, special projects and other duties as assigned. Intern must possess good interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills, and have the ability to adapt to new and changing situations.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall.

Parks Planning: Construction, Planning, Cultural Assets, Urban Parks

Jeff Dillon, Parks Planning Superintendent

Phone: (303) 413-7215

E-mail: dillionj@bouldercolorado.gov

The City of Boulder manages and maintains over 65 urban park sites from small neighborhood parks to large community parks and also includes 1,000 acres of natural areas within these urban parks and surrounding natural lands. These public lands serve a community population of over 125,000 plus many visitors from surrounding towns, and are hosts to many outdoor related events and races.

While interning with the parks and planning division, you will be supervised by one of 5 supervisors depending on your area of interest. Interns will experience many different aspects within the parks and planning department. Areas of emphasis and responsibility may include planning (events, landscape design, and water conservation), construction and renovation, turf (management and mowing operations), maintenance (general park, equipment, irrigation, horticulture and fleet), GPS and GIS mapping, special events management, supervision of both crew and volunteers, and public administration (professional meetings, budgeting and public relations).

Requirements: Graduate or undergrad students majoring in Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, Landscape Architecture or Design, Horticulture, Natural Resources, Outdoor Leadership, Planning or Land Use Studies, or a related field of interest.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall

Urban Forestry

Kathleen Alexander, Forestry manager

Phone: (303) 441-4407 E-mail: alexanderk@bouldercolorado.gov

The Urban Forestry Section is responsible for maintaining over 40,000 trees in the Boulder parks and along city streets. A variety of opportunities are available for interns depending on personal interests, skills, and abilities. Internship options include tree maintenance, surveys for insects and disease, creating public information brochures and pamphlets regarding tree care and planting, as well as composing news releases of programs offered. Interns will help with Arbor Day planting programs and coordinate with school and neighborhood groups to organize tree planting events and promote these special programs. Field work opportunities include identifying available planting spaces on public rights-of-way for potential street tree planting and arboretum maintenance. Interns should be able to work independently and in groups. Experience in map reading, creative writing, and horticulture are helpful.

Positions available: Year round depending on qualifications

Urban Resources – No positions available at this time.

The City of Boulder Parks and Recreation system consists of over 1,800 acres, with nearly 1,000 acres of natural areas (wetlands, wildlife habitat, grasslands) in both urban park and natural land settings.

Many urban parks in Boulder have natural land components that require various levels of

resource management, which helps to compliment regular urban park maintenance, forestry, and management activities.

Interns will experience all aspects of conservation land resource protection work including but not limited to; visitor services (formal and informal interpretive situations, citizen contacts, regulation advisories, public relations, volunteer supervision), conservation projects (wildlife monitoring, vegetative restoration, wetland restoration, reports and documentation, etc.), park and trail maintenance, land management activities (integrated pest management, GPS and GIS mapping, conservation plan development), wildlife protection (raptor protection and monitoring, prairie dog management, bear education, etc.)

Opportunities exist to familiarize the intern with heavy equipment, tools and audio-visual equipment used in conservation and land management work and with other Parks and Recreation associated staff.

Positions available:

Health & Wellness Promotions

Summer Kennedy, CLP, Program Supervisor

Phone: (303) 413-7264

E-mail: kennedysu@bouldercolorado.gov

The health promotions internship allows interns to customize their experience to meet their career goals. The City of Boulder Wellness Works employee program is spearheaded by a team consisting of human resources, risk management and the recreation department. The wellness program uses a health population management model powered by SimplyWell. Employees must complete a health risk questionnaire and biometric testing annually in order to participate in the program. 1200 employees are eligible. Once an employee completes the required screening they have access to the SimplyWell medical web portal and can track incentive points by participating in a variety of education modules, challenges and events.

The recreation department supplements the SimplyWell web based program with a recreation center pass to three facilities, two outdoor pools and a reservoir. Exercise, healthy lifestyle classes, and sessions with a personal trainer, dietician, athletic trainer or physical therapist are included.

The public may participate in similar programs offered to the community of Boulder and its neighboring cities. These activities include recreational weight training, fitness, mind body programs and special events. Interns may focus on the public sector during the internship or blend employee and community program components into their internship experience.

Interns may choose from a broad scope of opportunities including administrative duties, marketing, instruction of fitness, personal training, planning and assisting with special events, conducting work site wellness challenges, scheduling health screenings, conducting surveys, planning and selecting vendors for the annual health fair and the opportunity to attend management level planning, wellness consortium, Colorado Parks and Recreation Team, city

council and recreation board meetings.

City of Boulder Wellness Works Employee Wellness Program
Intern Project Options for 2010

Interns may choose from this list as a starting point and add other projects as they become acquainted with the program. We encourage interns to participate in projects that they are passionate about and that meet their individual career goals. Interns will have an opportunity to complete a mock job interview at the conclusion of the internship and have their resume critiqued.

Opportunities:

- Shadow health assessments and sessions conducted by dietitians, personal trainers, physical therapists and athletic trainers.
- Work with the wellness team to plan intervention programs intended to reduce risk factors, conduct health challenges at work sites, recruit speakers, create wellness activities around monthly themes
- Create employee newsletters, e-mail messages, new hire information packets, up-date power point presentations, create flyers, disseminate marketing materials, up-date wellness web site
- Apply for the American Heart Association endorsement, reapply for the Wellness Council of America Award
- Assist in creating text and proof reading health and wellness pages for our quarterly class guide
- Start and lead walking clubs, running groups or fitness classes
- Schedule photo shoots, take pictures and submit to marketing director
- Assist with annual renovation projects at each facility
- Assist clients enrolled in programs for individuals with disabilities
- Coordinate activities offered at no cost insurance carrier wellness specialists
- Up-date training manuals
- Up-date operations manuals
- Work with seniors the senior program, or youth in our youth sports or youth Initiative program
- Special event support: Creek Festival, Boulder Race Series, Bike to Work Week, Triathlon clinics, Open Water Swim Clinic, National Employee Health and Wellness Day, Earth Day, holiday meltdowns, Great American Smoke Out, Nutrition panels, Wellness Monthly Themes, others of your choice

Positions available: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

Sports

Supervised by Teri Olander, Recreation Administrator – Sports Administrator

Phone: (303) 441-3429

E-mail: olandert@bouldercolorado.gov

An intern will gain experience in programming, budgeting and administration of athletic

programs. Responsibilities include program planning, supervising, coaching, score keeping, working with leagues, camps, tournaments, scheduling, assigning part-time employees, scheduling concessions, checking field maintenance, updating brackets, public relations and information, risk management reports, purchasing awards, evaluation process and survey comparisons. The intern will also be asked to update databases, help plan and work at special events, assist with registration, and attend staff meetings.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall

Therapeutic Recreation

Supervised by Colleen Fitzgerald

Phone: (303) 413-7216

E-mail: fitzgeraldc@bouldercolorado17

While interning with the EXPAND Program (EXciting Programs, Adventures, and New Dimensions) you will be supervised by one of five Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists. Interns will experience many aspects of a community based Therapeutic Recreation program. Responsibilities include program planning, implementation and evaluation, marketing, public relations, risk management, assessments, and more. Programs vary from season to season but may include fitness, swimming, sports, outdoor adventure, gymnastics, golf, summer day camps, and much more. Interns work with people who have developmental disabilities, spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, hearing impairments, visual impairments, autism, brain injuries, mental health, emotional, and behavioral disorders. EXPAND provides opportunities for people to enrich their lives through specialized recreation programs and inclusive opportunities. Benefits of an internship with the EXPAND program are: mileage reimbursement and the use of three recreation centers. Interns must have First Aid and CPR certification and submit an acceptable criminal investigation report.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall

Youth Services Initiative Program

Supervised by Colleen Fitzgerald, Recreation Administrator

Phone: (303) 413-7216

E-mail: fitzgeraldc@bouldercolorado.gov

The Youth Service Initiative program serves youth and families living in the city of Boulder. On-site after-school and summer camp programs.

Provide comprehensive programs and services that promote the healthy development of youth, as well as connect families to community resources. Working primarily in public housing

communities, staff, interns and volunteers plan and implement activities designed to increase leisure skills and promote healthy lifestyles; increase literacy and motivation for academic achievement; enhance personal, interpersonal and life skills development; and promote a sense of community and community engagement. While this program offers an excellent opportunity to develop youth programming skills that are grounded in positive youth development principles, it also provides a unique opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and sensitivity toward culturally and economically diverse populations. Intern responsibilities include program development and implementation, volunteer management, identifying and accessing community resources, and coordinating programming partnerships and collaborations. The internship will involve working with both elementary and middle-school age youth -- i.e., youth ages 7 – 12 years. Experience working with youth of all ages in a recreational capacity is required. Basic knowledge in the area of human development and family studies is highly desirable. Bilingual English/ Spanish preferred. Students will also receive educational experiences within the department. Interns will attend management level meetings; assist with center operations and department wide special events.

Positions available: Summer (two positions), Fall and Winter/Spring (1 position each semester)

Outdoor Recreation Programming and Facility Operations - Boulder Reservoir

Supervised by Sarah Rodriguez, Reservoir Program Coordinator

Phone: (303) 441-1806

Email: rodriguezsa@bouldercolorado.gov

The intern will gain experience in all aspects of outdoor recreation management with a heavy emphasis on summer camps, boating programs and special events 50 – 4000 people. Responsibilities include: working with events, camps, scheduling, assigning part-time employees, event fees and charges, public relations and information, risk management reports, evaluation process and survey comparisons. The intern can also expect to gain experience with front gate operations, boat house operations, facility maintenance, and open water/beach operations.

Positions available: Spring and Summer

Aquatics Intern

Supervised by Steve Whipple, Recreation Administrator - Programs

Phone: (303) 413-7262

Email: whipples@bouldercolorado.gov

The Aquatics intern will gain experience developing and evaluating all areas of aquatics programming; swim lessons, aqua fitness, swim team, special events and camps. The intern will gain experience hiring, training, and scheduling employees. The intern will learn about aquatic facility operations indoor and outdoor. Responsibilities include: camps, scheduling of seasonal staff, public relations and activity guide production, on site facility management, assist in employee recruitment and retention programs, and assist in the facilitation of special events.

Positions available: Spring, Summer and Fall

Facility Management and Operations

Supervised by Steve Whipple, Recreation Administrator - Programs

Phone: (303) 413-7262 Email: whipples@bouldercolorado.gov

An internship at one of our three Recreation Centers will involve two main areas: facility management and administration or aquatics programming. Facility management includes administration, operation and maintenance of a recreation center, brochure preparation, purchasing procedures, staff meetings, special projects, and related duties as assigned. Aquatics management includes pool maintenance, water chemistry, lesson programming, and outdoor pool operations (summer only).

Positions available: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall (summer interns are especially welcome)

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING - Therapeutic Recreation

1. Interns must obtain approval of their academic advisor *before* contacting the city of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department.
 - a. **GENERAL PARKS AND RECREATION:** Applicants must schedule an informal interview (by phone or in person) with appropriate supervisor(s). Applicants must complete the internship application and provide a current resume before their formal interview. If a candidate indicates more than one interest area, the application will be circulated in order of placement preferences.
 - B. **THERAPEUTIC RECREATION:** Applicants must schedule an initial interview (phone or in person) with Lori Goldman (303-413-7256). Applicants must complete the internship application, submit two letters of reference; one from a therapeutic recreation professor and one from an employer where work with people with disabilities was completed, and provide a resume before a formal telephone interview. The intern must make a minimum commitment of 40 hours per week for 14 weeks. Extended internships will be honored if required by the intern's college or university.
2. If selected:
 - A. **GENERAL PARKS AND RECREATION:** Interns must be aware that they are not paid during their internship. Interns must be prepared to meet their own living expenses during the internship.
 - B. **THERAPEUTIC RECREATION:** Interns must be aware that they are not paid during

their internship. However, travel reimbursement may be available to compensate interns for travel expenses.

3. Upon acceptance, it is the intern's responsibility to schedule a formal interview with the intern supervisor and arrange a starting date for the internship. The intern must formulate a list of goals to be pursued while working with the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Interns are respected as professional members of the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department. Performance will be regularly evaluated to maintain high departmental standards and to satisfy the intern's educational requirements. The department reserves the right to end an internship if it is deemed in the best interest of the department.
5. Interns are expected to know and comply with the policies and procedures of the department.
6. Interns will be graded and given credit for completed work, according to University policies.

Intern Application Deadlines:

Spring – September 15

Summer – Jan 15

Fall – June 15

APPLICATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION INTERNSHIPS

Mail Completed Application To:

City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department,

3170 North Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304

Attention: **Steve Whipple**, Internship Program

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____

Temporary Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____

Permanent Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____

When would you like to intern? (List first two choices of dates **or** seasons)

1. _____

2. _____

Do you have access to a vehicle? _____ YES _____ NO

University or College:

Advisor: _____ Phone: _____

Advisor E-mail: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____

Emergency contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Permanent Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip code: _____
Relationship to intern _____

College Level Completed: 1 2 3 4 graduate

Major: _____ Degree: _____

Number of weeks your university or college requires for your internship _____

INDICATE AREA (S) OF INTEREST: NUMBER IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

___ Programs Administrator - East Boulder Community Center

___ Pottery/ Arts Programming and Facility Operations

___ Golf Course Management

___ Parks and Planning: Construction, Planning, Cultural Assets, Urban Parks

___ Urban Forestry

___ Urban Resources

___ Fitness/ Wellness/ Health Promotions

___ Sports

___ Therapeutic Recreation

___ Youth Services Initiative Program

___ Outdoor Recreation Facility Operations and Programming – Boulder Reservoir

___ Aquatics Intern – Indoor/Outdoor Facilities

___ Facility Management and Operations

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR RESUME OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY