

Friends of Five Creeks Internships 2023-4

Who are the Friends of Five Creeks? Friends of Five Creeks (F5C, www.fivecreeks.org) is a volunteer organization founded in 1996. From Berkeley to Richmond, Bay to hills, we seek to increase the health, stewardship, and protection of urban water bodies, natural areas, plants, and animals. We also seek to increase citizen enjoyment, understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of local nature including preparedness for and dealing with a changing climate. We are a partner group of nonprofit 501(c)3 Berkeley Partners for Parks. In addition to hands-on in local natural areas, we lead walks and other public events, engage and educate the public in many ways including citizen science, monitor in various ways, and both collaborate with and pressure government.

Who are we looking for? We are looking for short-term, part-time interns whom we can help with next steps toward environmental careers – jobs or admission to higher education or training. We especially welcome people from varied backgrounds and those with real financial need. Generally, we seek people who enjoy fairly hard work outdoors, are curious about nature, and get satisfaction from helping the environment hands-on.

- **College students, recent graduates, or other adults** should be interested in working in environmental or related scientific fields. Undergraduates should be close to graduation or a certificate.
- **High-school juniors or seniors** should have a demonstrated interest or experience in nature, the outdoors, and/or environmental issues. Interns must be able to get to and from our sites on their own, without parents.

What can you get from this internship? We hope that you will get satisfaction from helping people and nature outdoors in beautiful places. You can learn safe and effective use of tools, how to identify and manage various native and non-native plants, and restoration and management techniques including some mapping and monitoring. You can get some understanding of local plant and animal communities, challenges ranging from effects of climate change to urban social problems, history including environmental justice, dealing with government agencies, and doing public outreach and citizen science. What you do and learn may be largely up to you – ask! We also offer semi-independent projects including some suitable for class or thesis projects. These may be partly or even entirely unpaid due to time required.

General interns should be able to do the following:

- Get to work sites reliably, on their own, and on time, possibly including walks of up to a mile.
- Work independently and take initiative.
- Regularly check and respond to email, phone calls, or text messages from F5C, including instructions.
- Work with a partner or in small groups – older interns should be able to lead such groups.
- Follow instructions and be willing to learn new information and techniques.
- Interact and communicate effectively with people from varied backgrounds.
- After instruction, safely and effectively use a variety of hand tools of different sizes, and teach others.
- Do reasonably sustained physical work for at least three hours and lift 30 pounds.

Hands-on work is paid. Optionally, interns may carry out tasks that may not be fully paid due to learning time required.

These include setting up and retrieving data from monitoring devices; using apps to record plants, wildlife, and changes; systematizing and analyzing data; designing and producing signs, flyers, and online outreach materials; developing innovative ways to educate the public including use of F5C's extensive photo collection; improving its website; contributing e-news articles; drafting grant proposals, and projects interns suggest. Payment for these should be discussed in advance.

Schedule and pay: Schedules will be flexible and by agreement, at no more than four hours a day. Interns should be able to work on a weekend day at least twice a month. These are temporary, short-term positions without benefits or Workers Compensation insurance. Wage is local minimum, possibly more for relevant skill or experience. We will reimburse transit or car-travel costs at IRS rates for trips of up to 10 miles, but not taxis, Uber, or similar. Interns must keep records of hours and travel sufficient to meet IRS reporting requirements and submit them promptly with an invoice and Social Security number adequate for tax records. Interns should be vaccinated for COVID-19.

If interested, email us at f5creeks@gmail.com. Tell us something about yourself and what you are looking for.