

Conservation and Outreach Intern – Summer 2018 (May – Sept.)
Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter, Park City, UT

Organization Information

Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter is a 1,200 acre nature preserve and education center in Park City, UT. It encompasses 800 acres of wetlands, 400 acres of uplands, and a 10,000 square foot LEED Platinum certified “green” visitor’s center. The mission of Swaner is “Preserve, Educate, Nurture.” We aim to preserve the land, educate the community about the value of nature, and nurture both the ecosystem and the human connection to it. Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter is a part of Utah State University.



Fostering the delicate relationship between people and nature is at the heart of managing the Preserve. It is nestled in an area with expanding development and plays an increasingly important role in the area’s water quality and quantity, is home to a wide variety of wildlife, and offers 10 miles of recreational trails that are among Park City’s most heavily used. Swaner aims to balance the needs of the native ecosystem with those of our community. We believe that the health and beauty of the natural landscape heightens our quality of life.

The Swaner Preserve is surrounded by houses and roads, bisected by a major interstate and crisscrossed by trails and a maze of land easements. Its management means understanding the needs of both the ecosystem and the people who live in and around it. Our conservation efforts enhance both environmental health and human well-being. First, we seek to understand our precious resources by conducting professional field surveys and assessing the land, wildlife and waters.

Next, we work to restore the Preserve to its most natural state. Then we enhance our streams and wildlife habitat for the benefit of the community. Finally, we partner with other organizations to ensure that our conservation efforts are comprehensive and meaningful on a larger scale.

Internship Description

This internship will be involved with a wide range of activities and projects at the organization and will report to the Executive Director. This person will assist with conservation and restoration efforts on the Preserve as well as nature interpretation in the EcoCenter, at community events, and on the Swaner trails.

Duties will include:

- Assisting with a broad range of restoration projects such as installation of beaver dam analogs on East Canyon Creek and the reintroduction of the Columbia spotted frog on Swaner Preserve.
- Assisting with implementation and assessment of innovative management techniques, such as biocontrols.
- Management of noxious weed species on the preserve including pulling and monitoring.
- Working at the EcoCenter exhibit hall interacting with visitors, as well as assisting with guided Preserve tours and lectures.
- Creating interpretive materials to educate visitors and trail users about the Swaner Preserve
- Assisting with social media associated with the Preserve

Development During Internship

During the course of this internship, the intern will experience a wide range of conservation projects and education programs, making this the perfect internship for a student who wants the opportunity to explore a variety of career options or refine their interests in the environmental or non-profit field.

- This intern will gain hands-on experience in implementation of restoration and land management projects.
- The intern will gain an understanding of the complex issues surrounding community conservation including local partnerships, conservation easements, and recreational use.
- The intern will also develop outreach and interpretations skills, enabling the intern to effectively communicate and teach about the natural world.
- The intern will learn about non-profit organizations and management, the day to day operations of a community center, and the many facets of USU Extension work.

Instructions to Applicant

To express your interest in the conservation internship, please send resume and cover letter to: Nell Larson, Executive Director, at nell.larson@usu.edu.