



BRUSHWOOD CENTER
AT RYERSON WOODS

POSITION OPENING

Summer Education Intern

BRUSHWOOD CENTER AT RYERSON WOODS

Located among pristine woodlands in the Ryerson historic home in Riverwoods, IL. Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods works toward a future of resilient and connected communities, both human and ecological, where all lead healthy and thriving lives.

Since 1984 Brushwood Center has been a nexus between communities, nature, and the arts. With a focus on youth, families, Veterans, seniors, artists, and local residents, our programs lift up the strengths, assets, and hopes of communities to achieve greater environmental, racial, and economic justice. We work with more than 90 partners and 300 artists annually to offer programs centered on physical and emotional health, artistic and musical creativity, and community and personal wellbeing.

Website: www.brushwoodcenter.org

Location: Waukegan and Riverwoods locations, Illinois

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Brushwood Center is seeking an enthusiastic candidate with experience in youth programming and/or education, as well as a passion for community engagement and the outdoors. The Summer Education intern will work closely with Brushwood Center's It's A W.I.N. (Art and Wellness in Nature) team, including the Youth Education Coordinator and Senior Program Director, as well as the Communications Coordinator. The intern will primarily focus on supporting summer education programs and distribution events for the Nature Explorer Backpack / Mochilas de Explorador project. Responsibilities include:

- Working with the It's A W.I.N. team to plan, implement, and facilitate summer youth programs on and off site, and assist with distribution of 1,200 Nature Explorer Backpacks;
- Help with data collection for distribution events, and potentially data evaluation depending on experience;
- Collaborate on special events and presentations with community organizations and other Brushwood Center program teams; and
- Cultivate relationships with new potential partners, including community clinics and immigration service organizations, by meeting with them and identifying their needs and the best opportunities for collaboration.

About It's A W.I.N. & the Nature Explorer Backpack Project:

It's A W.I.N. (Art & Wellness in Nature) initiative is a community-driven approach to supporting youth, families, and community partners in North Chicago, Waukegan, Round Lake, and Highwood to:

- Increase equitable access to the many health benefits of nature;
- Strengthen environmental awareness and action through youth empowerment; and
- Cultivate rich cultural connections to the natural world.

It's A W.I.N. initiative supports children, families, and community members through their ecosystem of care. We create long-term partnerships with vital community organizations who support youth education and health, and shape our program around community-defined goals, knowledge, and feedback. In order to deliver culturally-competent programs at multiple touch-points in a child's life, we intentionally partner with a wide variety of organizations, including healthcare providers, libraries, childcare providers, nature organizations, immigrant support organizations, and school systems.

It's A W.I.N. and partners across Lake County are teaming for the fifth year in a row on our Nature Explorer Backpack / Mochilas de Explorador program. Our goal this year is to provide 1,200 bilingual bags to youth and family members in Waukegan, North Chicago, Round Lake, and Highwood. In alignment with the recommendations from our report, *Health, Equity, and Nature: A Changing Climate in Lake County, IL*, this program aims to empower young people as change-makers to help address systemic environmental and health injustices in our communities.

QUALIFICATIONS

We are seeking a dynamic, collaborative professional leader with at least one year of experience in youth education, community organizing and/or community engagement or a similar role. These individuals will be adaptable, passionate, and highly organized. Key qualifications include the following:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills, both written and verbal
- Knowledge of Lake County, IL community
- Reliable transportation that will allow for traveling to and from programs and events
- Must possess cultural competence and a commitment to racial justice and equity, and has an interest in climate justice and or health equity
- Fluency in Spanish is preferred

Equal Opportunity Employer: Brushwood Center is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by the law.

As an organization, Brushwood Center is committed to equity work as an ongoing journey. We celebrate diversity and are committed to co-creating an inclusive work environment with our talented team.

HOURS/DURATION: 15-18 hours per week, May - August of 2025

COMPENSATION: \$18 per hour

APPLY BY: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, but should be submitted no later than April 30 for consideration. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter describing their qualifications and resume to Angela Ramirez, Administrative Coordinator, at aramirez@brushwoodcenter.org.