



**BRUSHWOOD CENTER**  
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### **POSITION OPENING**

HEN Community Research Intern

#### **BRUSHWOOD CENTER**

Brushwood Center 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](http://www.brushwoodcenter.org)

**Locations:** 21850 N Riverwoods Rd, Riverwoods, IL 60015

415 Washington St #009, Waukegan, IL 60085

#### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Brushwood Center seeks two enthusiastic candidates with experience in community engagement, as well as a passion for public health and the outdoors. The Health Equity & Nature (HEN) Youth Leadership Cohort will work closely with the Coalition Building Manager, Senior Program Director, Lead Research Fellow, and Communications team. The cohort members will primarily focus on projects that move forward recommendations from the 2023 Health Equity and Nature Report, as well as supporting nature and health equity focused collaborations in Lake County:

- Attend weekly meetings with Accelerator team and additional check-ins as needed
- Work with current partners as well as developing new relationships with various stakeholders (clinics, environmental justice, food justice organizations, etc.)
- Draft a citizen science community action plan, including stakeholder engagement tactics, data tracking systems, public communication, project timelines, and implementation strategy
- Collaborate with data team at Rosalind Franklin University on development of citizen science environmental justice data capture, including monitoring both air and water quality at multiple sites
- Connect with aligned work and coalitions in Lake County to help expand report findings and outreach
- Collaborate on special events, advocacy opportunities, and presentations with community organizations, such as Clean Power Lake County's summer intern cohort

## **About the Health, Equity, and Nature Accelerator:**

Brushwood Center's Health, Equity, and Nature Accelerator aims to activate healthcare investment in nature-based solutions and drive collaboration among community, governmental, environmental, and healthcare sectors in Lake County and the larger Chicago region. The Accelerator was born in response to growing community demand and momentum for systemic changes to address racial and ethnic inequities at the intersection of health, climate, and nature. Building on Brushwood Center's decades of on-the-ground community engagement experience in Lake County, the Accelerator also responds directly to the lessons Brushwood Center took from our pandemic-response work.

Everyone deserves a healthy environment and access to the outdoors. Clean air, water, and access to the outdoors are vital to human health. The 2023 Report, [Health, Equity, and Nature: A Changing Climate in Lake County, IL](#) outlines key findings and recommendations for improving wellbeing in Lake County, Illinois, by addressing systemic inequities at the intersection of environment and health. This report was born out of conversations from the community surrounding the need for a report to compile current quantitative and qualitative data around environmental justice, health equity, and access to green spaces in Lake County.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

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

- Currently pursuing a degree, either part time or full time, in a related field or interest area
- Meaningful experience with research, data collection, analysis, and management
- Experience with community organizing and stakeholder engagement
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills, both written and verbal
- Knowledge of Lake County, IL community.
- Reliable transportation that will allow for traveling to and from meetings and community engagement events
- Must demonstrate cultural humility 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:** 20-25 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](mailto:aramirez@brushwoodcenter.org).