



## ***Clean Water Ambassadors Internship***

*A partnership between King County Wastewater Treatment Division (KC WTD) and Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (Greenway Trust)*

### **DESCRIPTION**

The Clean Water Ambassadors Internship is for high school-aged youth who are at least 15 years old. In this program, interns gain valuable field experience, hone their leadership and communication skills, and make professional connections within the environmental community. Through experiential field trips and interviewing professionals in environmental careers, interns learn about urban and natural water systems, including the key role of salmon and the ways human activity affects water quality.

Community engagement is the ultimate goal of the internship. Interns research and create proposals on outreach and education opportunities within their own school and community. At the end of the summer, interns synthesize their experience by giving a professional presentation to staff and community members.

### **DETAILS**

For seven weeks in the summer, interns work approximately 30 hours per week (Monday through Friday, 9am-3pm). Interns spend two days per week in an office environment, and three days per week doing field-based learning in various locations. In addition, interns work a minimum of 40 hours throughout the following school year to implement their community engagement projects and support events for KC WTD and the Greenway Trust.

Interns are paid employees of King County and earn more than \$16/hour and are given ORCA cards to cover the cost of their commute.

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

#### **Clean Water Ambassador interns will:**

- Explain how and why equity and social justice are a priority in environmental work
- Learn about environmental career path options through job shadows and informational interviews of professionals
- Hone professional communication skills, including interviewing, public speaking and written communications
- Develop a project proposal to implement in their identified communities
- Deepen sense of place and community through experiential learning
- Communicate to their peers and community about clean water issues and actions they can take to protect clean water in our region

- Explain wastewater treatment and stormwater solutions & their role in protecting public and environmental health
- Describe the characteristics of healthy salmon streams and identify actions young people can take to protect them

### **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

- Exposure to careers and skills related to: water quality, wastewater & stormwater management, communications, community involvement, education, engineering, project management, and ecological restoration
- Public speaking and professional written communications
- Using advanced data collection equipment for water quality monitoring
- Working in both office and field environments
- Independent professional work and time management
- Working with diverse peers in small groups

Learn more about the Clean Water Ambassador internship at

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/wastewater/education/internships.aspx>

*\*This description reflects our program prior to 2020 and is subject to change based on Covid-19 restrictions. We will make decisions about the 2021 program as information and recommendations become available.*