Thorne Nature Experience- Service Description

HOST SITE: Thorne Nature Experience

Thorne Nature Experience (Thorne) is a non-profit organization that is committed to building Earth stewardship by connecting youth to nature through joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences. Thorne believes in discovery, exploration, and a connection to the natural world. Founded in 1954, Thorne has a rich history and has reached more than 200,000 children and adults through its three programs: School (in-school and afterschool), Summer Camp, and Field Trip Programs. Thorne seeks applicants for two full-time AmeriCorps Environmental Educator position for Sept 1, 2017 to July 27, 2018, to help further our mission by delivering services to the community through Thorne’s various programs. This position will also act as Thorne’s liaison with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County (“I Have a Dream”) and will help grow our partnership by delivering Thorne programs to Dreamers in Boulder County.

Service Location: Boulder is an extremely vibrant and outdoorsy city that boasts close to 70,000 acres of open space and over 90 miles of trails in a community of roughly 100,000. With over 300 days of sunshine per year, there is always something fun to do in Boulder! Amongst all the beauty and nature, Boulder’s affluent community is experiencing a large gap in high income and high poverty. In these hidden, low-income communities, youth are faced with tremendous obstacles to academic and life success. Serving in Boulder County with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation means providing the youth we serve with the necessary support and trusting relationships they need to close the achievement gap with their more affluent peers and complete high school prepared for higher education and a fulfilling career.

Title: AmeriCorps Member – Environmental Educator
Reports to: Thorne’s School Programs Manager
Responsibilities:

● Teach Thorne’s environmental education programs to Boulder County youth, including up to 4 days/week during the school year and 5 days/week during the summer between all programs:
  o Teach up to 4 days/week of Thorne’s in-school program that focuses on delivering science and nature education to low-income youth through three visits to a classroom
  o Teach two day per week of Thorne’s Field Trip programs during the fall season for Boulder Valley School District 2nd graders delivered at our site on 45-acres of Boulder Open Space
  o Teach Thorne’s field trip programs at Waterton Canyon and Sombrero Marsh in the spring- these field trips are designed as a 4th visit to Thorne’s In-School Program to get students outside into nature
  o Teach Thorne’s Afterschool Program 1-3 days a week- this program is offered at several partnership schools, where students also participate in Thorne’s In-School Programs. We believe these long-term relationships with students help to deepen their connection to nature and enhance science literacy. It runs up to 12 weeks/semester and gets students outside in their school yard to learn about science and nature
  o Serve as an Instructor for the Thorne’s Summer Camp for six to eight weeks during the summer months, including teaching programs for Dreamers through “I Have a Dream” partnership.

● Assist Lead Educator with curriculum development and supply management as needed
● Participate in Thorne Nature Experience assemblies, special events, and outreach activities as needed
or schedule permits

- Assist Education Programs Manager and Director as requested
- Create and/or edit “eBooks” for In-School Programs taught (if volunteers aren’t able to)
- Act as Thorne’s liaison for our partnership with “I Have a Dream” and will help grow this partnership by delivering Thorne programs to Dreamers in Boulder County.
- Teach birthday parties...

**Stipend and Benefits:** Full-time member – responsible for 11 months of service, a minimum of 1,700 hours of service during the year will receive the following:

- A **living allowance** of $12,530 (pre-tax) over the course of the year;
- A National Service Trust **Education Award** of $5,775 (pre-tax), after the successful completion of the term of service, can be used for post-secondary education, vocational school, graduate school, or to pay back student loans;
- Level of service averages **40 hours per week**
- **Health insurance** as part of the AmeriCorps health plan; and
- **Child care**, if eligible.

**Training Opportunities Provided:**
- Initial 2-week AmeriCorps Training / Orientation to “I Have a Dream” and NDMVA
- In-School and eBook training (including shadowing a Thorne Instructor)
- Field trip training (including shadowing a Thorne Instructor)
- Afterschool program training
- Summer Camp training
- Ongoing AmeriCorps Workshops – 1-2 per month

**Meeting Schedule:**
- Monthly Thorne Education Team Meetings
- Monthly AmeriCorps meetings
- Bi-weekly Thorne Staff Meetings
- Bi-weekly Thorne Supervisor Meetings

**Requirements:** To be eligible to serve as an AmeriCorps Member, one must be at least 17 years of age; be a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien; and have a high school diploma or GED. Thorne prefers that members be at least 21 years of age.

**Selection Criteria:** Thorne is seeking fun, outgoing, passionate, organized, creative, resourceful, results-oriented, and self motivated applicants who are passionate about Thorne Nature Experience’s mission and enjoy working with youth and diverse individuals, including: Thorne students and their families; Thorne staff, volunteers and interns; teachers and school administrators; and members of the community. A bachelor’s degree and/or equivalent experience in Environmental Education, Environmental Studies, Biology, Geology, Education, or related field, and conversational/proficient in Spanish is preferred. A clear driving record and a vehicle are required. Thorne Nature Experience is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We will conduct the review and interview process until position is filled. AmeriCorps applications, resumes and references will be considered as they are received. **If you are interested in applying, please submit an online application – instructions are available at [www.ndmva.org](http://www.ndmva.org).** You may also contact:

*Andy Maeding, Education Programs Director*
*Thorne Ecological Institute*
*andy@thornenature.org*
*(303) 499-3647*

*Elyana Funk, NDMV AmeriCorps Site Director*
*“I Have a Dream”® Foundation of Boulder County*
* The actual start date is dependent on annual approval of federal funding, and on the grant funding cycle, which is determined by the Corporation for National and Community Service.