

## **Model Internship Proposal**

### **Introduction**

This fall semester I am seeking to engage in an internship position with the National Wildlife Federation in Atlanta, GA. The nature of this assignment will allow me to organize an after school program that will engage African Americans in environmental justice issues within the city of Atlanta via the Earth Tomorrow Program. Earth Tomorrow is a summer program of the National Wildlife Federation that selects African American high school students from Atlanta high schools to be immersed in environmental education during one summer week. Working closely with Earth Tomorrow director Na'Taki Osborne, I envision a program like Earth Tomorrow that unites African American college students, with these high school students to do continuous education on environmental issues throughout the academic year. This group of college students will be called Earth Tomorrow Fellows. Our goals with Earth Tomorrow Fellows are to promote awareness about environmental issues concerning African- American communities and to create a flow of education from the colleges and universities in Atlanta to the local high school communities.

Through the program, college students throughout the city of Atlanta will come together supported by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and other environmental groups to educate high school students and community members about environmental issues affecting minority communities in Atlanta. Fellows will work in the National Wildlife Federation's office completing administrative tasks, in local high schools conducting educational seminars, and in the greater community of Atlanta – tackling policy issues related to transit, the Beltline, and community development as well as conducting community service. Fellows will learn many aspects of NWF's conservation mission, including land stewardship, and protecting our nation's water and they will learn many aspects of Atlanta advocacy and policy by advocating for plans that will affect the poorest communities and the future of Atlanta's neighborhoods. Fellows will provide the necessary local action and become part of a national movement in minority communities to improve local environments. While we certainly understand the importance of diversity we believe that we must first build up a strong awareness and appreciation for the environment in the African American community before we can combat issues within other communities.

### **Project Description**

#### Activities

July 22-July 27 2007 Earth Tomorrow Summit

Earth Tomorrow is a program sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation that brings together African American Atlanta high school students for an intense week of learning about the environment. Students

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will participate in community gardening, speak with professionals in environmental issues and experience numerous outdoor activities to spark their long term interest and knowledge of the environment.

July 26, 2007 Community Gardening at the Harland Boys & Girls Club

Earth Tomorrow Fellows will participate in a day of planting vegetables and flowers with 40 African American Atlanta high school students to introduce them to the college student activists.

August 16, 2007- Treasure Hunt Event at Spelman College

This event will announce the launch of the recycling program at Spelman College. We will hide bottles and cans around the campus and the students will participate in a hunt for recyclable items for a prize, for 15 minutes. Upon return watch teams' bag will be weighed as the students participate in an information session about recycling at Spelman College. We will give them the low-down on how, where, when and why to recycle. Also we will invite someone from the City of Atlanta to speak about the importance of Spelman Recycling in the grader scheme of its impact on the African American community. At the close of the event we will announce the winning team and enforce the motto, "Spelman Jaguars Recycle".

August 25, 2007- Community Service Event with Trees Atlanta, Georgia State University & Spelman College

Trees Atlanta will provide tree planting materials for students and community members to plant in the West End Atlanta. We will have a day of tree planting with some environmental awareness on recycling, the greening of intown Atlanta and a "carnival type of day with activities in the parking lot of the West End Mall. We want to create a beautiful memorial sponsored by Spelman College, Georgia State, Trees Atlanta etc. with the assistance of local non-profits to promote awareness of environmental justice by planting trees in honor of these heroes.

August 31, 2007-Cook Out w/ Earth Tomorrow High School Students and Fellows at Piedmont Park

To celebrate the kick-off of our after school program our high school students along with their parents will be invited to attend a cook-out where we will socialize and get to know one another. We will have sports activities, information for the parents and allow parents to turn in parental consent forms for their children at this time.

September 1, 2007 (Planning Meeting with Tree House Fellowship Program, Tree House Faculty Advisory Board and Tree House Community Advisory Board) This meeting will be the time where we will have our first meeting with our board members and college students to present our schedule of events and make any necessary changes and additions. We will present the campaigns that we will focus on this fall semester and present our budget for the semester as well. This will be a time for overall intense planning, critiques and assessments.

October- Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

Day Hike Orienteering at Red Top Mountain State Park

The monthly outings that will occur to the various natural environments of Georgia will take the high school and college students to various locations throughout the natural environment to provide them with a sense of what exists outside the city. We will provide information on water resources, mountains, natural habitats and conservation of these various entities. These excursions will be funded by Inner City Outings a program of the Sierra Club.

Climate Change Week October 15-19 2007

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In the high schools we will host a different environmental campaign each week that will center on national environmental movements that are affecting the country. This week we will have a focus on global warming/climate change and perhaps have a showing of "When the Levees Broke" to demonstrate what happens when natural environments are not preserved and global warming causes extreme weather. We want to emphasize through learning sessions that African Americans will be the most adversely affected when natural disasters hit the US.

October 24, 2007 "Sustainability Day"

November 10, 11-Atlanta Environmental Leadership Conference, Spelman College

The conference will bring together students from the City of Atlanta and the southeast in a discussion on environmental solutions for the African American communities within Atlanta that face gentrification, displacement and concerns about the future of these communities within the city. We hope to present the city of Atlanta as a model for other cities facing similar problems. This two day event will consist of panelists of experts from the various fields of environmental issues who will guide the college students in their efforts to create a network of African American leaders.

#### Timetable

The funds allotted will be able to fund a portion of an ongoing internship that will begin August 1, 2007 and end May 1, 2008.

#### Budget

The purpose of the budget will be to provide a stipend that will defray the costs of transportation, housing resources that I may need to bring together a group such as this in such a short period of time.

#### **Evaluation and Dissemination**

I hope to host a banquet in December/January at Spelman College and invite potential sponsors, community members and other stakeholders to showcase the work of Earth Tomorrow Fellows. At this banquet we will visually measure the progress of the college and high school students and determine whether or not we can attain what I had originally hoped.

#### **Personal Statement**

Spelman College, B.A., May 2008 Majoring in **Economics** with Minor in *Management & Organization*

#### **EXPERIENCE**

**Loan Fund Intern, Enterprise Community Partners, 2007**

- Prepared and email acquisition and predevelopment loan applications, term sheets, and other relevant Loan product information to potential borrowers upon request
- Assisted with portfolio management by requesting and reviewing ongoing loan obligations, e.g. borrower financial statements, project progress reports, and insurance documentation
- Maintain lender files both hard files and electronic via an online servicing portal (STARTA); ability to organize and file documents appropriately and accurately
- Prepare draft communications to borrowers on administrative loan issues and prepare disbursement requests
- Provide follow-up with Loan Fund legal staff and borrower on outstanding issues prior and subsequent to loan settlement

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- Assist with loan closings by reviewing due diligence documents to be in accord with loan commitment

**Intern, Sierra Club, Atlanta, GA, 2007**

- Wrote newspaper articles and editorials for the Atlanta Journal Constitution, create news advisories for community television networks and radio, create flyers utilizing Microsoft Publisher and database all contacts through Microsoft Access/Excel
- Completed all office duties, i.e. speaking with and telephoning clients and volunteers, contacting local businesses and organizations
- Planned and advertise for “Step It Up”, “Sierra Club 101”, “Fish-O-Rama” and other events to increase awareness about environmental issues, Atlanta’s horrible traffic, transit solutions and global warming

**Math & Science Tutor, Brown Middle School, Atlanta, GA, 2006**

- Taught seventh and eighth graders the principles of Basic Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Natural Science with an emphasis in global warming, water preservation and natural disasters

**Summer Director, National Student Partnerships, Philadelphia, PA, Summer 2006**

- Served as case manager to 25 clients monthly by assessing need in the areas of employment, public benefits, education, finances, Section 8 housing vouchers, etc.,
- Recruited 35 student volunteers in two summer months to work the 2006-07 academic year
- Created Philly Web! An online webpage to keep donors and community members informed about the NSP community
- Performed all expected duties as summer director, i.e. built relationships with community leaders to expand local social service referral network, trained volunteers in client service, and served as a liaison between student volunteers and the office staff.
- Created Philadelphia Resource Binders to direct student volunteers to the appropriate human service organizations within the city and organized them in an online database (Wiki) for future volunteers to access and update

**ACTIVITIES**

**Cohort Member -- Public Policy and Leadership Conference, February 2006**

Selected of thirty four amongst an applicant pool of over one thousand undergraduates to attend the prestigious PPLC at **Harvard University**- John F. Kennedy School of Government