



River Program Field Intern

Environmental Traveling Companions

Description of Organization

ETC is a non-profit, volunteer based organization that provides outdoor adventure and environmental education experiences for people of all abilities. ETC conducts Sea Kayak, Whitewater Rafting, and Cross Country Skiing trips for youth and adults from under-resourced backgrounds and people with disabilities as well as extended Youth Leadership Programs for youths from underserved communities.

Position Description

River Program Field Internship is a comprehensive educational experience that includes hard skill instruction in whitewater rafting, workshops on outdoor leadership development, and specific training on adventure program management. Interns will regularly staff one to three day whitewater rafting trips on the South Fork of the American River for people with disabilities and underserved youth. Through formal training and practical experience facilitating whitewater rafting trips, interns will develop skills that are valuable for future employment in the outdoor industry or in other professional or educational settings. This is a residential internship at the ETC River Camp in Lotus, California.

Key responsibilities

- Work within a team of guides to execute meaningful trips for ETC participants
- Assistant Guide or Guide rafts in class III whitewater
- Facilitate activities focusing on group development, environmental education, human and natural history, and whitewater rafting instruction
- Support trip logistics including food purchasing, food preparation and equipment preparation and maintenance
- Care and maintenance of the ETC River Camp through weekly chores and other assigned tasks
- Participate fully in the educational aspects of the internship including attending weekly meetings and completing assigned reflections and other tasks
- Develop and carry out an internship project

Qualifications

- Enthusiasm for sharing the outdoors with people of all abilities and backgrounds
- Strong communication and leadership skills
- Desire to become a whitewater rafting guide on a class III river
- Experience working with people with disabilities and/or youth from underserved communities preferred
- Experience with environmental education or outdoor leadership preferred
- Current CPR and First Aid Certifications (WFA or WFR are preferred)-can be obtained after application and acceptance

Position Details

Term

- Start Date: May 18, 2026
- End Date: August 31, 2026
- Possibility to extend for month of September

Commitment:

22 or 23 days per month, with 8 days off scheduled no later than the first day of the month

Reports to: River Program Manager

Compensation:

- \$700/Month paid at the end of each month
- Tent platform living space and partial board

Academic Credit: This internship may be used for academic credit pending approval from academic institution

Included Training:

- River Guide School, April 9-12 & 17-19, 2026 (7-Days)
- Swiftwater Rescue Training, May 14-15, 2026 (2-Days)
- Inclusion Training, May 16-17, 2026 (2-Days)
- Ongoing skills development and training in guiding whitewater rafts, Swiftwater rescue, outdoor leadership, and adventure program management.

Criminal Background Check: Employment with ETC is contingent upon a criminal background check

Work & Living Location: River Program staff live on covered, open-air platforms at the ETC River Camp in Lotus, California

Application Closing Date: March 15, 2026

How to apply

Submit cover letter, completed application (downloadable from www.etctrips.org/about/employment), and resume with references via email to riverprogram@etctrips.org with the subject "River Internship Application."

Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC) is always seeking dedicated and talented people to join our community. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, ETC encourages applicants from all backgrounds and experiences, especially individuals from historically underrepresented communities in outdoor recreation. We strongly encourage people of color and LGBTQIA+ applicants to apply.

Pursuant to the California Fair Chance Act and the San Francisco Fair Chance Ordinance, ETC will consider for employment all qualified applicants, including those with arrest or conviction records. You do not need to disclose your criminal history or participate in a background check until after a conditional job offer has been made.