



## 2026 Legacy Partner Darryl Gates Memorial Internship

**Internship Type:** Environmental Education

**Organization:** Jefferson County Greenways and Legacy Partners in Environmental Education

**Eligibility:** Must be a college junior or senior pursuing a degree in Biology, Geology, Engineering, or related field. Fields such as ecology, environmental sciences, environmental resource management, forestry, K-12 education, and public health will also be considered.

\*Special priority will be given to students attending college in Alabama or students from Alabama.\*

**Dates:** 160 hours total over eight weeks, June – July, M-F with some weekends, hours and dates flexible

**Payment:** \$2,500 total stipend, paid monthly in two installments of \$1,250

\*Housing may be available upon request.

\*Applicants are responsible for their own transportation.

### Organization Overview:

The Jefferson County Greenways is a conservation education organization that oversees operations and programs of Ruffner Mountain, Red Mountain Park, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Together these parks encompass over 3,500 acres of protected forests and waterways and receive more than 300,000 visitors annually. These natural areas serve a crucial role in preserving habitat for native plants and animals, fostering connections between communities and the natural world, and preserving Greater Birmingham's industrial history. To learn more about each space visit our website, [www.jeffcogreenways.org](http://www.jeffcogreenways.org).

### Position Summary:

The Environmental Education Intern will work directly with Emily Hutto, the Lead Naturalist and Wildlife Care Specialist, and other program staff. Interns will lead field trips and public programs for youth, adults, and families, attend outreach events, and assist with wildlife care responsibilities.

**Primary responsibilities will include:****90% Environmental Education**

- Co-lead summer field trips for youth, specifically for age groups K- 12th
- Co-lead the Outdoor Classroom camp in partnership with Breakthrough Birmingham
- Co-lead Junior Naturalist, a science-based summer camp for ages 7-12
- Co-lead 2 Legacy "Educator Expeditions" Professional Development days
- Assist with public programs geared toward adults and families
- Assist with on-site and off-site animal programs
- Attend and represent the organization at community outreach events

**10% Wildlife Care**

- Assist with feeding, watering, and medicating animals; cleaning and disinfecting exhibits
- Assist with the handling of reptiles, amphibians, raptors, and millipedes for educational presentations. Assisting with preparing, and leading programmatic activities.

**Interns are also provided with unique opportunities to:**

- Learn about Alabama's incredible biodiversity
- Practice pedagogical techniques of environmental education
- Gain hands-on experience working with captive native animals
- Meet and network with park and trail directors, conservationists, and community partners
- Gain insight into the nonprofit sector
- Obtain college credit (if approved by your university)

**Essential Skills and Qualifications:**

- Passionate about wildlife care, conservation, and environmental education
- High attention to detail, can follow and remember directions, is a good problem-solver.
- Comfortable public speaking, interacting with visitors, and answering questions.
- Must be comfortable handling snakes.
- Willing to learn to handle and enter enclosures of raptors, including large raptors.
- Must be comfortable preparing/gutting/cutting/handling frozen and thawed feeder rodents and birds, and must be comfortable handling live feeder insects.
- Understand that working with animals comes with inherent risks and may involve injury.
- Must be able to work independently as well as in a team environment
- Ability to develop and maintain professional relationships and communicate effectively with fellow employees
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite 365.

- Previous experience with Google Suite (especially Sheets/Excel) and basic Internet usage. Must be able to type.
- Good driving record
- Physical Fitness: perform heavy lifting up to 50+ lbs; possess sufficient stamina to work in outdoor (hot & cold) environments.
- Willing to work in various weather conditions.
- Willing and able to hike at least 3 miles.

**How to Apply**

To apply, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below and submit answers via the online portal.

Applications are due by Friday, April 3, 2026.

