

## **Student Leaders Summer Fellowship 2025**



(Above: 2020 summer fellows holding bags full of invasive weeds.)

**About the Environmental Resource Center:** The mission of the ERC is to provide education and inspire action to cultivate a healthy environment in Idaho's Wood River Valley.

The Environmental Resource Center (ERC) was founded in 1993 by a group of volunteer environmentalists dedicated to the health and vitality of Blaine County.

Today, we are a small – but mighty – nonprofit working to tackle large issues on a local scale. Our environmental education programs reach people of all ages and provide individuals with opportunities to gain the knowledge, tools, and confidence needed to become stewards and leaders. Our community initiatives work to reduce waste and toxins, which ensure healthy soils and water, while galvanizing the community to protect our natural resources.

### **About the Fellowship:**

The ERC seeks the next generation of local environmental leaders to participate in its 2025 Fellowship program. Our fellowship program is focused on taking concepts learned in the classroom and applying it to real world problems. We believe that leaders are made through experiences that expand their capacity for courage, competence, and communication. The 2025 Fellowship Program will run approximately 12 weeks, from late May to mid-August.

### **What You'll Do:**

As a fellow, you'll spend your time in three major areas:

- **Impact Through Service.** During this portion of the fellowship, you'll roll up your sleeves and directly serve our community and agency partners. This may include working the ERC office hotline to answer recycling and pesticide-related questions, creating and distributing educational materials at Forest Service campsites to educate campers about Bear Aware guidelines, picking up dog waste at trailheads, pulling noxious weeds to slow down the spread of invasive species, and assisting with data collection for long-term strategic analysis, among other opportunities.
- **Specialized Training and Subject Focus.** With the mentorship of staff and outside advisors, you will deliver a project of major importance to the organization. The goal of the project is to teach fellows the fundamentals of project management, from scheduling and logistics to setting measurable goals and tracking outcomes.

Based on the expertise of the ERC staff and board, we are offering the following specializations this year:

- **Education**

Have you ever considered becoming a teacher? Do you love taking complicated issues and distilling them into explanations and concepts that get students excited to learn more? With this concentration, fellows will work closely with the Director of Education on developing and delivering environmental education programs, including the popular youth summer ECOcamps.

- **Applied Research**

Within this area of focus, fellows will develop creativity and critical thinking skills as they work on an applied research project that contributes to the overall body of environmental knowledge. Fellows will learn how to ask questions that have scientific rigor and operational relevance. This summer, fellows will work with the ERC's Program Coordinator on two priority topics: water quality and invasive weed spread.

- **Finance and Strategy**

This specialization offers fellows the chance to work with concepts within the worlds of both finance and ecological operations. In the future, how will green projects be financed? How do financial companies think more innovatively about mitigating environmental risk? Where can financial expertise be leveraged to address environmental issues, and how can economics learn from ecological thinking? Fellows will explore these questions and work with the Executive Director on a green finance project.

- **Art and Design**

Art expands our ideas of the possible. Do you look where others see trash or waste material and instead see the possibility of reuse and reimagining? In this specialization, you'll work with the ERC's PUP Manager, Director of Education, and community artists on the principles and applications of graphic design, as well as opportunities to apply artistic expertise to connecting people to nature.

- **Connections to the Community.**

At the ERC, we hope that this fellowship will be a stepping stone on your personal growth and career trajectory. Through this portion of the fellowship, fellows will connect with leaders and peers in the fields of land management and conservation. Fellows will learn firsthand from community leaders, practitioners, and scientists on the work that is vital today, hear about their thoughts on preparing for the opportunities of the future, and get personal insight on career pathways and professional options.

### **Qualifications:**

#### *Required:*

- Willing and able to represent the ERC in a professional, positive, and enthusiastic manner.
- Ability to be both self-directed/work alone, and be a positive, contributing member of a group.
- US Citizen or Permanent Resident
- A valid driver's license and an insurable driving record (documentation to be provided upon request).
- A personal vehicle for off-site work locations.
- Must be physically able to hike while carrying up to 40 pounds of gear on uneven and steep terrain, on and off trail, in a variety of weather conditions.
- Must be able to work in an environment with high temperatures, poisonous plants, and biting insects.
- Willing to undergo and must pass required criminal history checks.
- Ability to perform the essential duties of the position with or without reasonable accommodation.

#### *Preferred:*

- Competitive applicants for this position can hold or be pursuing a minimum of a bachelor's degree and/or have relevant experience in subject areas such as natural resource management, biology, ecology, environmental studies, public policy, economics/finance, or a related field.
- A strong demonstrated interest and/or education in the field of environmental studies.

- Ability to communicate effectively with children and adults in an educational setting.

### **Salary / Compensation**

The Student Leaders Summer Fellowship is a paid position. Wages start at \$17-19 /hr dependent on education and experience.

### **To Apply:**

Please submit your Resume and letter of interest to [Ashton@ercsv.org](mailto:Ashton@ercsv.org). ERC staff will be in touch with further application materials.

**The ERC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.** *We are an equal opportunity employer and provide equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, orientation, national origin, age, disability or genetics, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by local, state, or federal laws.*

### **Quotes From Past Fellows:**

“This program was extremely beneficial to not only my mental attitude, but also my confidence. It showed me that I could be placed in a situation without being sure of how to use my skill sets, and, with enough hard work, emerge with a ton of vital experience.”

- **Summer Fellow 2020**

“Thank you! I’m so grateful to have had the opportunity to do meaningful work with the ERC. I have a new perspective on the valley’s environment’ and came out of the summer passionate to continue studying environmental science. I can’t wait to use the skills I learned and apply them to my studies, future employment, everyday life, or even take them back to work with the ERC in later years. I hope students have the same opportunity I had for summers to come!”

- **Summer Fellow 2020**