Fellowship Description

This information will be made available to all fellowship applicants. Please type or paste responses directly into boxes below. Boxes will expand to fit.

Organization Name: The Catamount Institute
Location (City/State): Colorado Springs, CO

☐ Yearlong Fellowship (June 2015-May 2016)
☒ Summer Fellowship (June-August 2015)

About the Fellowship

Title of PIFP Fellow: Summer Education Specialist

Primary Responsibilities of PIFP Fellow:

General Responsibilities Include
- Being a mature and dependable positive role model for campers and other staff
- Providing punctual and organized leadership, creativity, direction and supervision during activities, trips, and around the camp
- Applying the Catamount mission statement as a goal for your work this summer
- Taking ownership for your personal attitude and behavior
- Working with other staff members to provide a quality experience for all members of the camp community
- Adjusting one's personal habits to the philosophy, policies and ideals of the camp including a comprehensive understanding of and respect for our time-off/alcohol and/or tobacco consumption policies and procedures

Specific Responsibilities Include
- Teaching, living, and working with campers ages 9-16. This includes staying overnight for our residential camps that stay overnight or camp out as a part of the program.
- Must be able to prepare and teach a lesson from a lesson plan
- Lead on or off-camp trips, activities, programs and special events. This may include driving a 15
passenger van, hiking over rugged terrain, and being comfortable in wilderness settings

- Responsibility for shared cooking and cleaning duties for camp overnights and student supervision at meals (on a rotating basis)
- Leadership in evening activities
- Flexibility in response to current and emergency situations and to shifts in camp responsibilities

Completing an individual staff project of your choice

**How Fellow Will Contribute to Capacity-Building/Systemic Change:**

Catamount Institute works to systematically inspire ecological stewardship in the people of the Pikes Peak Region. Meaningful stewardship goes beyond throwing trash in a trashcan because it’s the socially acceptable thing to do. True ecological stewardship stems from a deeper personal connection to and concern for the environment. Catamount forges environmental connections and creates ecological stewards through hands-on inquiry-driven experiences. For example, once a student has experienced an aquatic ecosystem first hand and seen how a little bit of pollution at the bottom of the food chain can kill the predators at the top (including themselves), gotten their feet muddy and hands wet searching for aquatic insects and identifying them to analyze the health of the stream their standing in, they forge a deeper connection to the environment. Their thought process changes from “Bugs are gross,” to “Bugs are awesome living tools to tell me if my water is clean and drinkable.” Students become protectors of all water in all ways, not littering in streams, but also conserving water from the tap and sharing the story of their experience with others. Catamount Institute changes single actions; Catamount is changing whole lives.

Currently, Catamount Institute is only able to sustain two full-time education staff members, limiting the scope and volume of programming we are able to provide for the youth of our region. Catamount has resulting weaknesses in evaluation of current programming and outreach as well as in program development. With the assistance of a Public Interest Fellow from Colorado College, Catamount will be able to serve up to 72 additional students this summer. The Public interest fellow will also help shape and implement an assessment tools for our summer programs and outreach methods so that we can reach more students in years to come. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to build solutions for weakness identified in their study. This project will build Catamount’s capacity for current and future summer programming, while allowing the Public Interest Fellow to work within their strengths to develop a new program piece they can be proud of as the capstone piece of a positive teaching and learning experience in the nonprofit sector.

**Training & Networking Opportunities for Fellow:**

**Week-long introduction to Catamount Institute including:**

a. Non-Profit leadership and structure
b. Overview of current assessment tools for camp other Catamount programs
c. Teacher naturalist training
   i. Outdoor class management
   ii. Basic flora, fauna, and ecosystems
   iii. Team building activities
   iv. Outdoor education lessons and activities
d. General Summer Staff Orientation
   i. Additional teacher naturalist training
ii. Emergency procedures  
iii. Child abuse prevention and awareness  
iv. Summer camp policies  

The fellow will also have the opportunity to meet and work alongside licensed classroom teachers from the Pikes Peak Region.

**Supervision of PIFP Fellow:**

The PIFP Fellow will be supervised by the Camp Director and Assistant Camp Director. They will have the following responsibilities under that supervision:

- Assisting with preparation for Staff Training in the weeks before the training begins;
- Taking on specific training activities – to both establish the fellow as a leader as well as give them hands-on teaching experience before student programs begin;
- Assisting in the direction of camp staff and programming during regular and split-camp weeks (when we will be running multiple camps);
- Undertaking a summer-long capstone project.

The fellow will receive weekly and daily verbal feedback about their teaching and leadership skills, as well as a mid-summer formal, written review to assist in their professional development over the course of the season.

**Qualifications Sought in Fellow:**

**REQUIRED:**

- High comfort level working and living outdoors
- Strong commitment to youth and learning
- Energetic, dedicated, & able to become involved in all aspects of the program
- Current first aid and CPR certifications are mandatory, preference given to WFA or WFR certified applicants

**PREFERRED:**

- Experience working with children
- Teaching experience (especially at the elementary or middle levels) Teaching license or certification path given priority but NOT required
- Science, History, or Recreation background helpful but not required

**BENEFICIAL:**

- Special skills (music, singing, storytelling, group dynamics, and games) helpful
- Experience rock climbing on a recreational level

## Skills/Experience Sought in Fellow:

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### Technology Skills Required:

- Excel
- Power Point
- Publisher
- Other: Excel
- Graphic design
- Database management
- Constant Contact
- Other: Graphic design

### Certifications Required:

- WFA
- WFR
- First Aid
- CPR
- Other: (Preferred Wilderness medical training)

### Language Skills Required:

- Spanish
- Other: Spanish

## About the Organization

### Organization’s Website:  www.catamountinstitutue.org

**Organization’s Mission and Goals (primary activities & projects):**

Catamount Institute’s mission is to develop ecological stewards through education and adventure.

For over a decade, Catamount Institute has served thousands of young people with a vibrant range of innovative programs.
- Elevate Environmental Education (E3) is a program in partnership with Woodland Park School District (WPSD) and Pike’s Peak Community Foundation that allows all 900 elementary school student in the WPSD to attend a 1 – 2 hour weekly outdoor classroom experience at the local Aspen Valley Ranch for an entire semester.
- Young Environmental Stewards (YES) a semester long, science-driven, after-school program combining environmental science and community service to empower students to become leaders in their schools and acquire skills that expand their knowledge of science.
- Keepers of the Water, Keepers of the Earth, and Custom Field Trip programs are interactive field programs for elementary, middle, and high schools that promote an enriched understanding of water and land conservation, renewable energy, sustainability, and ecology.
- Science Symposia celebrate CI students’ research and community service project achievements. Partnering with Colorado College, younger students present their work to judges, meet college students, and enjoy tours and mini-lessons. For many students, this is their first exposure to a college environment, and it serves as an inspiration for setting future goals.
- Summer Camps are offered June through August, and they range from preschool camps to overnight wilderness training, and adventure camps. Each camp strongly emphasizes learning through outdoor adventure. Camps range from half-day to week-long residential programing.
- Spring Break Camp is a week-long residential camp offered over spring break to middle school students and includes the science of snow, avalanches, and winter outdoor activities like skiing, quinzhee construction, and snowshoeing.
- Teacher Workshops & Trainings are offered to educators to build their practical knowledge base and offer continuing education credits giving teachers tools to encourage their students and schools to implement sustainable practices in the classroom and school community.

**Number of Staff:**
- Three full-time staff
- Four part-time staff
- Twelve Work Study Interns from CC and UCCS
- Nine contracted licensed teachers (for YES afterschool Program)
- Four Summer-time Seasonal Staff (Two fellows plus two guide-interns.)

**Organization’s Non-Discrimination Policy Statement:**
Catamount Institute provides equal opportunity for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in employing or providing services to any individual on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification or expression, veteran status, or any protected status.

**Is there anything else a fellow should know about the organization?**
We have fun! We work hard, and we like to go outside!