



ARIZONA TRAIL

*Ambassador
Program*



ARIZONA
ASSOCIATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

naaee
affiliate network





OVERVIEW

The Arizona Trail Ambassador Program's mission is to create and foster environmental leadership by mentoring young adults to be ethical naturalists and environmental advocates. The Ambassador Program is a prestigious 300-hour internship program for high school students. Using the Arizona Trail and public lands as their classroom, interns are trained in naturalist skills such as birding, tracking, primitive fire methods, plant identification, mindfulness, local ecology, stewardship and so much more. Interns work closely with environmental experts to become leaders, public speakers, community and environmental advocates, and Nature Educators.

FIELD EXPEDITIONS

Approximately three days per month interns will depart from Tucson, and spend the day hiking, learning, and developing naturalist skills. These field expeditions will provide interns time to learn through experience and practice. Field expeditions typically operate between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm.

Skills and learning topics include:

- Sonoran Desert Ecology and Natural History
- Indigenous Cultures & Peoples of the Sonoran Desert
- Ethical Naturalism
- Bird Language and observation
- Traditional fire methods
- Wildlife tracking
- Navigation
- Interpretive education methods
- Trail maintenance and public lands stewardship
- Mindfulness



VILLAGE TIME

Approximately once per month, interns will meet at the Arizona Trail Association's headquarters, located at the Historic Y, in order to:

- Learn concepts and lessons more accessibly
- Engage with community experts
- Participate in the Ambassador's book club
- Review lessons and activities from previous field expeditions
- Prepare for upcoming events
- Lunch

Village Time will operate between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm.

AMERICORPS

In partnership with AmeriCorps, interns who are ages 17+ are encouraged to register as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Once registered, interns will be eligible to receive 3 college credits transferable to Prescott College, a \$1,374 scholarship to any U.S. college or university, and a \$3,000 stipend.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Upon program completion and graduation, Ambassadors will receive:

- Certification for Leadership and Environmental Advocacy - Arizona Trail Association
- Arizona Rising Naturalist Certification - Pima County
- Tucson Audubon Society's Field Leader Certification - Tucson Audubon Society
- 3 College Credits transferrable to Prescott College* - AmeriCorps
- \$1,374 Scholarship to desired college or university* - AmeriCorps
- \$3,000 stipend - AmeriCorps

All certifications are accredited by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) and the Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE).

*Only interns ages 17+ are eligible for college credits and scholarship stipend per AmeriCorps requirements.