



WRANGELL MOUNTAINS CENTER

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Education, research, and the arts in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN ALASKA'S WRANGELL- ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

EMPLOYER: Wrangell Mountains Center

JOB TITLE: Operations Intern

REPORTS TO: Facilities Manager, who reports to the Executive Director

The WRANGELL MOUNTAINS CENTER (WMC) is a private, nonprofit institute which fosters understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wildlands in Alaska and beyond through environmental education, research, and the arts in Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. The WMC is located in the small community of McCarthy, near the terminus of the Kennicott Glacier, on private land deep within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. Southcentral Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias is the largest unit of the U.S. park system, encompassing 13.2 million acres of glaciers, rivers, mountains, and forests. Together with adjacent parks in the U.S. and Canada, it is part of the world's largest contiguous tract of protected wildlands: a UN-designated World Heritage Area.

Wrangell Mountains Center is headquartered in "The Old Hardware Store" (OHS), a historic building which was originally a general store for boomtown McCarthy during the copper mining period of the early 20th century. Abandoned in 1938, the structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places after founding board member Sally Gibert initiated ongoing stabilization and restoration efforts in 1976. What was once a store and rooming house is now an active, rustic, solar-powered educational center with libraries, seminar rooms, a workshop, a cooperatively-run kitchen and garden, equipment storage for backcountry expeditions, and studio and office space for visiting scholars and artists.

OPERATIONS INTERN GENERAL FUNCTION: This is a fantastic opportunity with a small place-based environmental, arts and science education organization in the stunning and unique mountain community of McCarthy, Alaska. Operations interns are responsible for cooking for large groups of people; helping to maintain an organic garden; assisting with manual labor including composting, wood splitting, and water pumping; orienting students to our facility; ensuring a warm and well-organized environment for staff and program participants; providing administrative support including program marketing; orienting participants, guests, and students to the systems and customs of the OHS; and maintaining basic off-the grid facility needs. This is an exceptional opportunity for someone who wants to learn about place-based education centers and off-the grid sustainable and communal living. Applicants must have a strong work ethic and the desire to experience a small, quirky and exceptionally beautiful Alaskan town. Urban amenities and luxuries will be unavailable for the duration of the season.

DURATION OF INTERNSHIP: Positions available May 1st, 2009 to September 15, 2009.

Minimum tenure is 2.5 months; preference will be given to applicants who can start May 1.

RATE OF PAY: This is an unpaid internship. Room and board will be provided, with potential for a small stipend depending on experience and length of stay. Although monetary payment is minimal, the opportunity for fulfilling, meaningful work and experience are great. We will cooperate with your own efforts, if any, to earn college credit for your internship.

HOURS OF WORK: This is a full time position. Management will attempt to create a regular schedule identifying days off in advance; however, during busy times of the season this may not be possible. Operations interns should expect to work long hours for long stretches of time, then have blocks of time off in between programs. Flexibility and a team-work mentality are a must.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This is a great learning opportunity. Interns are not expected to arrive having all the necessary skills to conduct the duties listed below (and understandably won't necessarily be able to commit to the full season). This is why you are here – to learn! But you should already be prepared for some of the activities listed below, and you must have a desire to learn and a willingness to proactively seek out and master new knowledge. You will be in a very vital support role, and we will depend on you to learn new skills quickly, adopt responsibility, and help operate the Center in a healthy and happy way. Expect plenty of work, challenge, cooperation, and good times, and know that we'll expect you to be flexible and meet changes and obstacles with grace. So:

- Assist with start-up logistics for opening the OHS and setting up the systems for summer operations beginning May 1st, including cleaning, assisting with building repairs, and starting the garden.
- Assist with closing operations for the OHS in mid-September.
- Help foster a positive communal, co-operative-living atmosphere for all program participants. Help ensure the safety of program participants while they are using the OHS facility, by making necessary repairs, educating participants on proper use of facility and safety rules, etc. Keep track of food availability and reporting food orders to the Facilities Manager or Executive Director.
- Help to ensure that all meals during WMC programs are served on schedule. This may require leadership with program participants who have been assigned to kitchen chores, especially during busy times in the program.
- Train/orient program participants at the start of each program to cook, clean, compost and maintain an organized, clean, and efficient kitchen space. This may include directing participants to what food supplies are available and making recipe suggestions for large group meals for up to 40 people.
- Oversee gardening and other chores conducted by program participants.
- Day-to-day oversight of OHS functions and systems, including: pumping water, maintaining solar panels, chopping wood, general building repairs, keeping a tidy

welcoming atmosphere inside the OHS and on the property and inviting program participants to take an active role in much of the above, as appropriate.

- Help create a chore schedule for program participants in various programs.
- Be present at the OHS when program participants arrive in town or return from a long back country trip.
- Provide support for program staff to ensure that programs run smoothly. Assist with programs as needed; expect to lend a hand with our Summer Arts and Lectures Series and our Mountain Arts for Youth programs, for example, especially when the Executive Director will be away.
- Help the Executive Director with program marketing and administrative duties such as distributing posters, flyers, and brochures; calling radio stations or sending out press releases; entering data in the database, etc.
- Other duties as assigned.

EXPECTATIONS: The Operations Intern must be reliable, flexible, organized, and attentive to detail; must have a strong work ethic and a commitment to living and working in a communal, team environment; must embrace relative remoteness and lack of urban convenience; must be communicative, friendly, and sociable; must be a problem-solver. A strong Operations Intern will be willing to learn new skills and expand existing ones. Open and constructive communication between all staffers at the Old Hardware Store is essential, so applicants should be prepared to foster and maintain positive working relationships.

DESIRABLE SKILLS, INTERESTS, or EXPERIENCE: Gardening, cooking, baking, composting, backcountry wilderness travel, strong communication skills, interest in or passion for sustainability, communal living/working, science or the arts

DESIRABLE SKILLS: Wilderness First Responder certification or First Aid/CPR certification; light construction/carpentry; familiarity with solar systems, basic hand and power tools; small engine repair and vehicle mechanics

TO APPLY: Please email a current resume, including references, and a cover letter detailing your motivations for applying; your training, educational, and outdoors background; and the dates you'd like to intern to Jeremy Pataky, Executive Director, jeremy@wrangells.org.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, call or email Jeremy at 907.244.7717 or email jeremy@wrangells.org