



Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Internships

Tribal Land Stewards of South Dakota Internship Program [Updated 6/15/21]

The IAC is recruiting high school and early college aged youth who are passionate about promoting the regeneration of natural resources within their communities. IAC will be offering Tribal Land Steward Intern positions to American Indian youth across South Dakota. Throughout the internship, students will gain an in-depth perspective and innovative understanding of how to effectively inspire conservation on the landscape. Our intention with this internship is to support the next generation of Tribal land stewards in South Dakota and propel Tribal youth forward into a career centered in natural resource management.

It is the goal of IAC to keep these interns rooted in their home communities and assist the student in finding a Tribal Partner Project Site that best fits their interests. Interns will work with IAC to design a personalized internship experience in natural resources, land management, and/or traditional/healthy foods based upon interest and proximity to available sites.

Selected interns will engage in a 10-12 week paid internship between June and September 2021. Given the on-going pandemic, this internship will follow a hybrid model of in-person and virtual activities. Interns will dedicate 15-20 hours per week to site-based and remote activities. They will be paid in the form of a stipend which will come in two installments. Interns will be expected to follow all CDC guidelines and restrictions throughout the duration of the internship.

The IAC targets students who:

- Demonstrate interest or intend to pursue a career in agriculture, natural resources or any other ecosystem-related profession;
- Are active in Native American communities/culture(s); tribal membership, descendant, and/or affiliation
- Understand the value and importance of working independently and on a team;
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in written and oral conversation; and,
- Express a passion for supporting conservation practices across Tribal ecosystems;
- And/or have participated in IAC's Leadership Development Programming (local, regional, and national youth summits and conferences);

How it Works:

- Interns will commit to a 10-12 week summer internship with IAC and a TBD Tribal Partner Project Site. Target start date is in June. Target end date is in September. Timeline is flexible and dependent on COVID regulations.
- IAC will establish Tribal Partner Project Sites, based on intern interest and proximity

to site. Sites may include Tribal communities, departments, organizations, and/or Tribal Conservation districts, local schools, NRCS, or others TBD

- Tribal Partner Project Sites will support IAC with the development of a flexible learning plan for the intern, exposing them to all facets of natural resource management in Indian Country.
- IAC provides supervision and a challenging work experience with respect to both remote and field going activities/assignments.
- Intern commits to serve as a trainee, learn and gain experience as well as contribute their knowledge and skills to advance the IAC mission.
- Intern is responsible for completion of two written reports: an individualized research paper and a culmination paper summarizing their internship experience.
- The intern is responsible for taking copious pictures and keeping an updated log of experiences. Photographs will be shared with IAC for promotional purposes. Throughout the duration of the internship, presentation opportunities involving various audiences may be coordinated.
- IAC will compensate the student's salary, as well as provide a stipend to help defray costs associated with travel and/or remote work.
- Intern will communicate any issues that may arise to their assigned Supervisor, and if necessary, to the Natural Resources Director at the IAC.

COVID Guidelines:

- IAC Staff, Interns, and Tribal Partners agree to follow all CDC guidelines through the duration of the internship to maintain the health and safety of all individuals, their families, and their communities.
- Interns will be required to provide their own transportation to and from their designated work site. The IAC will compensate interns for associated travel expenses.
- IAC and Tribal Partner Project Sites will prioritize and focus on remote and outdoor internship activities.
- The IAC is committed to ensuring the safety of all and well-being of all involved. Interns will be expected to comply with the above guidelines or risk loss of internship.

Application & Hiring Process:

- High school and college aged youth submit their online application at bit.ly/IACInternshipSD. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. There is limited availability so apply soon!
 - Online Application includes:
 1. Background Information (Name, Grade, Tribal Affiliation, etc.)
 2. Submitted 1-3 page letter of interest that includes the following:
 - Reason for interest in this internship
 - Why you are passionate about natural resource management

- Current or past involvement in Tribal land stewardship and natural resource management (i.e. classes, conferences, internships)
 - Career goals and interests and how you think this internship will help you reach these goals
 - Any skills, or additional tribal engagement commitments which you think will benefit you in this internship
3. Submitted resume to include 2 references
- Interns start their 10-12 week internship no later than June, 2021.
 - Interns publish their capstone project no later than September 2021. Capstone projects will be utilized by IAC to inspire future internship opportunities that will further recruit youth involvement in natural resource management.

Questions?

Please contact Ellen Sanders-Raigosa, IAC Natural Resources Program Assistant at ellen@indianag.org