



The Understory Initiative (TUI) is a 501-(c)3 non-profit organization based in Medford, Oregon, with projects throughout the Rogue Basin. Our mission is to facilitate the restoration and conservation of native species habitat through partnership and community engagement. As a TUI "sister organization", Vesper Meadow Education Program works to inspire a culture of land stewardship and nature connection through place-based restoration at Vesper Meadow. Vesper Meadow's Healing Landscapes Program centers local Indigenous youth and families in land access and restoration through culturally centered frameworks, incorporating perspectives of Indigenous worldview where plants, animals, and humans are interdependent relatives.

Healing Landscapes Internship Position - open to students only
Dates: June - September (start/end date flexible), 2024
Must be willing to work some weekend days and be located in the Rogue Valley
Hours: 270 total hours; approximately 15 hours/week
Compensation: \$1,275 monthly stipend

Position Overview:

The internship offers a unique opportunity for a student passionate about Indigenous culture, biocultural restoration, and ecological restoration. The intern will engage with land stewardship and restoration activities, including both planning/coordination and hands-on fieldwork, centered in Indigenous worldview and native plant ecology. Intern will gain experience in native plant identification, seed processing and cleaning.

Responsibilities:

- **1. Assist** with Healing Landscape events to support Native youth, families and community and to promote Indigenous worldview and land stewardship at Vesper Meadow.
 - a. **Support** logistical aspects of event preparation including participant registration, transportation coordination, and volunteer communications.
 - b. **Facilitate** group activities, team-building exercises to promote leadership development, resilience, and connection to the natural world.
- 2. Research and implement additional program tools and/or materials to develop the Healing Landscapes program.
- 3. Gather native seeds in support of The Understory Initiative's Seeds of Success Program
 - **a. Learn** sustainable seed collection practices by participating in the Seeds of Success Training program

- **b. Process** seeds at our seed-cleaning facility so that they may be applied to habitat restoration projects
- **4. Document** and share the work of land restoration and human/community restoration through Intern's preferred medium: Photo/video and/or written word

Qualifications:

- **Strong commitment** to Indigenous cultural revitalization, food sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and social justice.
- **Knowledge** of or willingness to learn Indigenous traditions and teachings related to traditional foods, land-based education, and cultural practices.
- **Excellent** written and oral communication, interpersonal, and teamwork skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous elders, youth, and community members.
- **Physically capable** of bending, walking on uneven terrain, spending 3-5 hours outdoors, and lifting up to 50 lbs
- Fluency with computer applications such as Google workspaces and social media platforms.
- Attention to detail in learning plant forms and names, recording data in the field

Native Hiring Preference:

The Understory Initiative and Vesper Meadow will implement a tribal preference policy for this internship position. We encourage self-identified citizens and descendants of state and federally recognized tribes to apply.

The Understory Initiative and Vesper Meadow are committed to creating an inclusive and equitable environment and encourages applications from individuals of all backgrounds, including Indigenous peoples, members of the LGBTQ+ community, persons with disabilities.

Requirements:

- Ability to work both remotely and in-person
- Access to personal computer for research/communication
- Clear a background check and possess a valid driver's license and form of transportation
- Must be a student and must be entering Senior year if in high school.

How to Apply:

Please submit a resume and personal statement of goals and aspirations to Stasie Maxwell at stasie@vespermeadow.org. Applications will be accepted until Thursday, May 2nd, with interviews scheduled the week of May 13th. Selected candidate for the internship will be notified by Thursday, May 30th.

Preferred Internship start date: June 1st, 2024.