

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

