

Youth Intern Program



“Explora and its employees have provided an inviting and comfortable working atmosphere. How many people can say that they learned something new all the time? After learning a program not only do we get the opportunity to benefit another person or many people, we benefit ourselves.”

- Stephanie Loveless, Youth Intern

Qualifications

- High school sophomores
- Must qualify for federal free/reduced-price lunch program
- Must participate in an interview process with an adult sponsor or parent
- Program begins in January and continues through an intern's senior year in high school
- 12 weeks (60 hours) job training in Explora operations, exhibits, and programs

For an application packet and deadlines, call the Youth Intern Program Manager at 224.8388.

Schedule

- 3:30-6:30pm Tuesday group trainings (Explora can provide transportation from school and back home.)
- 3-5pm Saturday morning exhibit floor training



The Youth Intern Program, a project of Explora in Albuquerque, New Mexico, prepares low-income, culturally diverse high school students to educate elementary school children through programs in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The program enrolls 30 students who are recommended by teachers and counselors at Albuquerque's high schools or social service agencies. The students spend an initial 60 hours in orientation and basic job training. They also learn about Explora, the principles of experiential education, and expectations for internship. They then formally apply to the program, developing and submitting a résumé, and undergoing a formal interview.

As interns, the students spend many hours working with Explora's educators to provide Explorations classes for school and community groups. Each intern is matched with a personal staff mentor who provides individualized support for the student's academic program, career exploration, job performance as an intern, and college application. Starting as educational assistants, the interns take on growing roles, eventually leading classes on their own. In this way, the interns directly affect the lives of hundreds of children, contribute to the aspirations of their families, and become role models for their peers in the community.

During the summer months, youth interns are encouraged to work as paid assistants in our summer camps. The youth interns also assist Explora educators in facilitating programs, assist with demonstrations and visitor services on Explora's exhibit floor, and participate in outreach events.



“Here at Explora one will always get the feeling that they are important to every one, that sense that as soon as one enters the building, the friendliness overwhelms you. You keep on learning every time you come, learning things from a different point of view.”

- Pedro Hernández, Youth Intern

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The primary goal of the *Youth Intern Program* is to open a gateway, for youth from low-income families, into intellectually stimulating, personally rewarding employment that serves the community, contributes to Explora's educational mission, and leads to expanded educational and career opportunities. Interns provide community service, explore the principles of quality experiential education, and inspire and educate elementary school children by conducting Explora's educational programs in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.



"It's like a ladder. You keep going up the steps and you never realize how far you've come until you look back. The staff put the ladder there, but we have to climb it ourselves. What I learned is I can do anything.

- Lisbeth Martinez, Youth Intern



The Youth Intern Program succeeds because it is based on the firm belief that young people are resources who can contribute services of high value to their communities. This approach results in multiple benefits: for the interns, it builds understanding, self-confidence and career experience; for the children, it provides additional educational opportunities as well as role models from their own community; and for Explora, it enriches the quality and breadth of its services to the community.

"I've continued to work at Explora because I enjoy helping to teach children and I also learn with them. Explora is a place where everyone can feel welcome. Explora is like a second home to me."

- Jeri Lial, Youth Intern

