

KEEN Environmental Education Internship Application

Ellensburg High School & Central Washington University Students | 2026–2027

Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN)

Thank you for your interest in becoming a KEEN Environmental Education Intern!

KEEN interns gain hands-on experience in outdoor education, environmental science, youth leadership, conservation, and nonprofit work. Interns work alongside KEEN staff and progressively take on greater responsibility as educators, mentors, field scientists, and project leaders.

You do **not** need to have previous environmental education experience. We are looking for students who are curious, dependable, enthusiastic about learning, comfortable working outdoors, and excited to work with people.

1. Student Information

Full Name:

Preferred Name:

Email:

Phone:

Major / Program of Study:

Year in School:

- Freshman
- Sophomore

- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate Student

Expected Graduation Date:

2. Internship Interests

Which internship opportunities interest you?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ **KEEN Nature Academy Intern** — outdoor education for ages 8–11
- ☐ **KEEN Outdoor Fridays Intern** — field science and environmental education for ages 8–11
- ☐ **KEEN EcoExplorers Intern** — outdoor leadership and mentoring for ages 11–16
- ☐ Habitat Restoration & Conservation
- ☐ Outdoor Recreation & Adventure
- ☐ Environmental Communications & Media
- ☐ Nonprofit Leadership & Community Engagement
- ☐ Other: _____

Which opportunity is your first choice?

What interests you about this opportunity?

3. Your Interest in KEEN

Why are you interested in an internship with KEEN?

Tell us what interests you about outdoor education, environmental science, conservation, youth programs, recreation, or community engagement.

What do you hope to learn or gain from this internship?

How might this internship connect to your academic or career goals?

4. Experience & Skills

You do not need experience in every area below. Please tell us where you have experience or interest.

Working with children or youth

- ☐ None yet
- ☐ Some experience
- ☐ Significant experience

Briefly describe:

Outdoor recreation

Check any areas where you have experience:

- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Navigation / map & compass
- ☐ Backpacking
- ☐ Paddling
- ☐ Climbing
- ☐ Snow activities
- ☐ Wildlife observation
- ☐ Leave No Trace
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ I'm still learning!

Environmental / science experience

- ☐ Biology
- ☐ Ecology
- ☐ Wildlife
- ☐ Botany / plant identification
- ☐ Habitat restoration
- ☐ Field research
- ☐ Water quality
- ☐ GIS / mapping
- ☐ Community science
- ☐ Environmental education
- ☐ Other: _____

Other skills

- ☐ Teaching
- ☐ Public speaking
- ☐ Leadership
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Videography
- ☐ Graphic design
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Writing
- ☐ Grant writing
- ☐ Event planning
- ☐ First aid / CPR
- ☐ Other: _____

5. Your Experience

Tell us about an experience when you worked with a group, led others, or took responsibility for a project.

This can be from school, work, volunteering, athletics, clubs, outdoor activities, or your personal life.

Tell us about a time something didn't go according to plan. What did you do?

6. Working Outdoors

KEEN programs take place outdoors in a variety of conditions.

How comfortable are you working outside in changing weather?

- ☐ Very comfortable
- ☐ Comfortable
- ☐ Somewhat comfortable
- ☐ I'm still gaining outdoor experience

What does being a good outdoor educator or leader mean to you?

7. Availability

Please indicate your availability for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Tuesdays — Nature Academy

- ☐ Available
- ☐ Possibly available
- ☐ Not available

Wednesdays — EcoExplorers

- ☐ Available
- ☐ Possibly available
- ☐ Not available

Fridays — Outdoor Fridays

- ☐ Available
- ☐ Possibly available
- ☐ Not available

Weekends

- ☐ Available regularly
- ☐ Available occasionally
- ☐ Generally unavailable

Other availability / scheduling considerations

8. Internship Credit

Are you seeking academic credit for this internship?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ I would like information about this

If yes, what department, or course, or professor would the internship be associated with?

9. Transportation

KEEN programs may occur at multiple outdoor sites.

Do you have reliable transportation to KEEN program locations?

- Yes
- Sometimes / may need transportation assistance
- No

If transportation may be a challenge, please explain:

10. Certifications

Please list any relevant certifications or training.

First Aid:

CPR:

Wilderness First Aid:

Other outdoor or professional certifications:

11. References

Please provide one academic, professional, volunteer, or community reference.

Name:

Relationship:

Email:

Phone:

12. Resume

Please attach a current resume if available.

A resume is helpful but **not required for students applying for their first internship experience.**

13. Final Question

What is one thing you would love to teach a child about the natural world?

14. Student Statement

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that KEEN internships involve professional expectations, working with youth and community members, and working in outdoor environments.

Student Name:

Signature:

Date:

What Happens Next?

After reviewing applications, KEEN may invite selected students to a short interview or informal conversation.

We are especially interested in learning about who you are, what you care about, and what you want to learn. You don't need to have everything figured out.

We are looking for students who are ready to get outside, learn something new, contribute to the community, and grow into environmental leaders.

Questions?

Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN)

Environmental Education • Conservation • Outdoor Leadership

Contact: Jill Scheffer, Executive Director

Email: keen@keenetwork.org

Website: keen-ycic.org