Whatcom Museum Education Internship
Local Native American Culture and History
2014 - 2015

Western Washington University Contact:
Joyce Hammond (joyce.hammond@wwu.edu  phone: 650-4796)
Museum Contact: Chris Brewer, Education and Public Programs Coordinator of Whatcom Museum
360-778-8960, cbbrewer@cob.org

Museum Internship Description and Overview

The People of the Sea and Cedar is a favorite school tour provided by the Whatcom museum for local schools. Each year, the museum provides this workshop/tour to many third and fourth grade students studying Native American history and culture as part of their curriculum. The workshop focuses on the Northwest Coast Native peoples.

Whatcom Museum Education Department is offering an Internship for 2014-15 to students interested in learning about the culture and history of local native tribes and the mechanics of museum workshop preparation, planning and delivery. Students will also learn about other museum education activities and programs. The internship can earn up to 7 credits through a 1-credit introduction/training in Fall 2014 and 3 credits each in Winter and Spring 2015. Preference is given to interns committed to a 3-credit internship in both Winter and Spring.

The internship includes training for the People of the Sea and Cedar hands-on workshop and facilitation of this workshop to school groups. The workshop training will be held Fall quarter 2014 and includes required reading. The training reviews the culture, history and life skills of the native people through lecture, demonstration, video, and hands-on activities. Students will be able to facilitate the workshop in both Winter and Spring quarter.

The internship is designed to
1. Teach students about museum education programs for school groups including planning, preparation, delivery and classroom management.
2. Provide training in the skills of leading museum tours and workshops and offer experience in facilitating workshops.
3. Assist students in learning about local native culture and history.

Student responsibilities include
- learning about local native tribes and their culture through lecture and reading
- learning techniques of native crafts and daily life
- presenting a hands-on workshop up to two days per week (winter and spring) to local school groups
- completing course assignments for the Anthropology department in Winter quarter and a research paper for Spring quarter
- completing a self-evaluation and a Summary of Learning

Internship Details

Credits and Hours. The 2014-2015 internship includes approximately 20 hours of onsite training and 10 hours of independent reading Fall quarter (1 credit). An additional 10 hours of training
in Winter 2015 occurs as students watch and participate in school tours. During Winter and Spring, students will assist in or facilitate about 60 hours of workshop facilitation or other museum work such as the museum’s *Down on the Homestead* pioneer tour and workshop as well as supporting other historical or cultural events and activities. Students will also complete museum assignments and research as assigned by the Anthropology department.

**Student Learnings.** Student interns will learn native techniques for weaving, cedar bark preparation, cedar ribbon preparation, twining, woodworking, steam-bending and bentwood box cooking methods. They will also learn to identify Native American artifacts in the museum collection and be able to replicate the museum workshop including training of volunteers, introduction of workshop and facilitation of student’s rotations through 5 workshop stations. Reading will include accounts of local native culture, and specific materials related to the museum’s *People of the Sea and Cedar* tour and workshop. Potentially students will take a field trip to learn more about local native people.

The Native American workshop facilitation includes:

- Workshop materials preparation: students learn to setup the workshop, maintain the workshop stations and prepare materials such as cedar ribbons.
- Training parent-helpers to teach at the stations: approximately 45-minutes is allotted for the parent training prior to the student workshops. Interns learn to train them to facilitate the stations for students.
- Workshop facilitation: a one-hour hands-on workshop with 5 learning stations includes: cedar bark preparation, cedar bark twining, yarn-making and weaving, woodworking, steam-bending and tool sharpening. The tour leader also demonstrates the technique of cooking salmon in a traditional bentwood box. During the workshop the intern provides a brief introduction to the workshop, demonstrates cooking in the bentwood box, directs the flow of the students through the stations and concludes the workshop.

**Application Process**

The internship is offered to junior- or senior-level college students or students who will reach junior status by Winter 2015. Interns should be comfortable working with people, hold an interest in Native American culture, and be willing to have an open schedule two days a week during both quarters of the internship. Students *must* be able to work between the hours of 9 am to 2:00 pm on either Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays during the quarter(s) they select.

Interested students should contact Chris Brewer, 778-8960 or cbbrewer@cob.org and provide

1. A brief description of career goals
2. A short overview of related coursework and skills related to the internship tasks
3. A short (one page or less) account of how you feel the internship will support your goals and what you can bring to the program.