

Boojum Institute for Experiential Education

Information for Prospective Interns

Who we are and what we do:

The Boojum Institute for Experiential Education offers outdoor programs that provide the opportunity for personal growth, leadership development and environmental education in a variety of wilderness and basecamp settings throughout California and the Southwest.

Participants on Boojum programs are challenged to develop personal skills in leadership, communication, team building, and self-confidence through facilitated adventure experiences. The environmental education component of Boojum programs explores natural history through hands-on investigation allowing participants to develop a relationship with the environment and providing insight into responsible environmental behavior and the role humans play with the natural world. The Institute is dedicated to personal and organizational development through unlocking potential, promoting self-discovery and inspiring growth.



The Boojum Institute offers three major types of programs:

- Experiential outdoor education courses for public and independent school students
- Leadership development and organizational development programs
- Adventure Challenge Programs for urban and rural youth at-risk populations

Since its founding in 1975, over 80,000 youth and adults have participated in Boojum's base camp, rock climbing, challenge course (ropes course), canoeing, sea kayaking and backpacking programs in locations such as Joshua Tree National Park; Idyllwild; Point Reyes National Seashore; Channel Islands National Park; Yosemite National Park; the lower Colorado River and Lake Mead; Baja California; and the Sierra Nevada, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz and San Jacinto Mountains. Our typical Outdoor Education programs run from three to five days with students generally in the 5th through 12th grades. Challenge courses run from one half to four days in length, with youth, college, corporate and other adult populations. Our primary field seasons are the spring and fall.

The Boojum Institute is based in the town of Anza in southern California, about 100 miles east of Los Angeles. Boojum administrative office, logistics base, and staff housing are all at the headquarters campus. Planning and course prep work are done there for Course Directors and logisticians, and all equipment is issued from there as well. The majority of our courses are field-based, and Instructors and Interns would begin their course at a campground or trailhead near the course area. Boojum also uses a number of residential camp facilities throughout California on a part-time basis for conducting basecamp programs. Depending on the season we employ up to six full time staff, 45 seasonal field and logistical staff and eight interns.

The Boojum Institute Mission:

To unlock potential,
Promote self discovery and
Inspire growth.



Internship Program Goals:

The primary goal of our program is to provide the intern with the opportunity to learn and work in a professional setting in the field of outdoor experiential education. This field is growing rapidly and the need for professionally trained teachers and field instructors is increasing. The internship program is designed to expose participants to the operations behind our programs, including logistics, training and support; the development of our learning and teaching curriculum; and the delivery and evaluation of our field programs.

What you can expect:

Upon your arrival at Boojum, you will go through our seasonal staff training (for Spring and Fall terms) with other Boojum staff members, or receive a separate intern orientation (Winter and Summer terms). The purpose of our training and orientation is to provide insight into the upcoming programs and activities, begin to develop a community of staff who shall be working closely during the season, and to introduce staff to the mission, philosophies and operations of the Boojum Institute.

Objectives for staff training include familiarization with team challenge courses, experiential education techniques, natural history overviews, group process and facilitation skills training, review of Boojum policies and procedures, and introduction to administrative and logistical operations. There will be lots of fun to be had as well!

Once training or orientation is complete, we will jump right into the heart of the season. Interns will begin by providing logistical support on base camp courses, field support on backcountry programs, and administrative support back at the Boojum facility. Each intern will get the opportunity to be in different learning and teaching situations depending on their own interests and skills as well as the types of activities Boojum is involved in that season. Spring and Fall season internships are heavily field-based. Winter and Summer internships have an extra focus on learning the administrative and logistical aspects of outdoor education, and field time is limited. There is also the possibility of other trainings during the season in rock climbing, anchor building, first aid training, and team challenge course facilitation.

It is the responsibility of each intern to arrive at Boojum with clear educational goals for his or her internship. Throughout your internship, there will be regular meetings with the Director of Education to discuss progress towards the completion of those goals and evaluation of performance. During the internship you can expect to be working hard for long hours both at the facility and in the field. We strongly stress good communication and team building in our programs, and we take this home to our staff. As part of a community of workers, students, and educators, interns are integral part of our programs and are highly valued members of our staff.

Who we are looking for:

Boojum is looking for people who are hard working, professionally minded and take pride in their work. A Boojum internship requires enthusiasm, creativity, a desire to learn about yourself, good organizational skills, the ability to work closely with others, and a sense of humor. Interns must be self-motivated, requiring limited direct supervision, and be comfortable working and living in the outdoors. Current First Aid and CPR certifications are required. Prospective interns must have a good driving record. Previous academic and professional exposure to outdoor education is preferred.

Interns must provide their own personal outdoor gear (a gear list will be sent describing what you will need), and transportation to and from the Institute. Boojum can usually provide transportation to and from local airports at the beginning and end of the internship.

What you get out of it all:

You'll receive a great educational and work training experience with a high quality outdoor education organization. You will have the opportunity to work with highly skilled professional outdoor instructors and/or administrators in a supportive learning environment. You may travel to some of the most remote and beautiful areas of the Southwestern United States. Boojum offers a professional purchase program

where staff may acquire outdoor equipment at a steeply discounted cost. Each intern will receive a living allowance of \$150.00 every four weeks as well as housing with other interns for the duration of your internship. Room and board are provided while you are in the field.

How to apply:

If you are interested in an intern position at the Boojum Institute, we would love to hear from you. Submit a full cover letter, resume, backcountry resume, copies certifications, a completed application, and three completed references from past employers or teachers. We cannot process applications until all materials have been received in our office. Send application packets to the address on the application. The application and reference forms can be downloaded from www.boojum.org.

Timeframes:

Internship dates are flexible. Boojum Institute internships often last for three or more months, though many vary depending on school or other requirements. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; however, apply as early as possible to have the best chance for getting the internship dates you want.

Thank you for your interest in the Boojum Institute. We look forward to hearing from you!

