



EXPECTATIONS FOR YOSEMITE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM INTERNS

The Yosemite Leadership Program (YLP) is a comprehensive 2-year co-curricular program focused on leadership, environmental advocacy, and social change. YLP gives UC Merced students—regardless of major or previous outdoor experience—the exciting opportunity to develop practical leadership skills. These skills are developed through a variety of on-campus leadership activities, outdoor education, stewardship projects, and professional development opportunities including a summer internship with a park, non-profit organization, or business that supports the environment.

Creating successful leaders requires more than just telling a student how to lead. It requires hands-on experiences in situations that use new-found leadership skills. The summer internship serves as “leadership fieldwork,” and the associated seminar provides YLP interns with the opportunity to earn one or two college credits.

By participating in a comprehensive 2-year program outside of the classroom, you have shown your dedication and willingness to learn. You are training to be a leader, and, as a result, are more likely to be involved and interested than an average intern. You serve as an ambassador for UC Merced, and offer employers a connection to campus, UC Merced faculty, and UC Merced’s academic program. Besides the work performed during the internships, you may become a conduit to creating an active and diverse constituency dedicated to the environment. Additionally, you will take the knowledge gained during the first year to complete a legacy service project in the second year of the program. Ultimately, you may become a future employee at the host organization or agency.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR A YLP INTERN:

- Abide by the 32 hour work week and one study day for a total of 40 hours over 5 days.
- If your internship is within Yosemite National Park, you are expected to attend the 2 credit environmental leadership seminar 1 day per week. If your internship is outside of Yosemite, you will conduct 1 day of independent study or online course. UC Merced will provide an advisor linked to the independent study course and offset course fees. Regardless of your internship location, you are required to complete an independent-study project during your internship.
- Dress appropriately for work or wear uniform per guidelines.
- You are an ambassador for UC Merced; be professional, punctual, and conduct yourself appropriately.
- You must be willing to learn, and open to new experiences, places, people, and practices.

- Be prepared to develop new skills, and practice flexibility, adaptability, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills as challenges arise.
- In many cases, you will be living in shared housing. Please be courteous and respectful of your housemates to promote a healthy and happy living environment.

DURING THE INTERNSHIP, INTERNS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH:

- Housing
- Transportation for work and for independent-study project
- Pre-internship arrival information
- Training necessary for the job (1 to 3 weeks)
- Other cross-training opportunities
- Compensation of \$15 per diem on workdays
- \$2,500 educational scholarship at the conclusion of the internship
- The opportunity to conduct and present an independent-study project related to the needs of your sponsoring organization
- Uniform (if required) and books (Yosemite)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

March 16	YLP internship applications due
April 16	Interns selected
May 21	Begin Internship
June 1	First Environmental Leadership Seminar
August 3	Last work day in field for interns
August 10	Presentations and Projects due; Symposium