

Aidan Campbell
Colorado Adventure Program
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I found this to be an extremely beneficial internship in that I was able to spend the summer in one of the most beautiful areas of the country learning and working with a variety of people. While working with the camp I was able to interact with many different people and help teach them what I knew about the environment and our surrounding landscape. The variety of groups that came up every week gave us an opportunity to interact with people from many different backgrounds and help find ways to communicate important environmental stewardship information across cultural and societal divides.

The experience of living at the Duncan Park camp itself was one of the most rewarding aspects of the program. I had the opportunity to live in a tent in the middle of the Roosevelt National Forest for two months of the year (what more could you want?). Along with this, the camp's ruggedness was always interesting to reflect upon; the half-hour drive up a three-mile gravel road, the hour drive to get to cell-service, having to drive in your drinking water, all this contributed to a very real feeling of being alone in the mountains.

For the final two-thirds of my time out West, I was able to connect and volunteer with the Forest Service was a great experience as well. Through this volunteer program I was able to learn an immense amount about the working of the USFS, land management techniques, and I was able to see the real-world applications of the degree I will be getting here. Johnson did an amazing job of encouraging me to find this volunteer program, assisting in any way he could through getting me contacts around the state to get in touch with.

This internship was an amazing experience and a great way to spend your summer. I would highly recommend it to anyone who loves the outdoors and doesn't mind the isolation. It is a great chance to practice communication skills with the varying groups coming through as you simultaneously find more about yourself in times of quiet reflection surrounded by the smell of the Ponderosa Pines and sound of the South St. Vrain creek.