Tell us more about the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center.

“We are a resource to educate and engage the community in nonviolence, social justice and environmental sustainability. As part of that, we offer a fair trade store for consumer education and alternatives, a library, park, dish pantry and community center. We offer classes, speakers, and other educational resources and events.”

How important are UM interns to your organization?

“We operate on a very small income, having only one staff member. So to accomplish what we do, we rely on many volunteers, students and interns. We could not keep the store open or do half of the events we do without them.”

Are there specific areas where interns are asked to help out?

“Fair trade and operations of our store are big areas where we seek interns and students. We also have opportunities for students to experience non-profit management, computer management, writing, editing and office skills, event management and community organizing.”
What are some of the projects your intern Paris Faas worked on specifically?

“Paris worked in our store, helped with displays and with making our displays more meaningful. She also served with our fair trade committee helping educate the community and organize against the Trans Pacific Partnership.”

Are you looking for students from specific majors?

“Not really, we have hosted students from sociology, social work, business, computer, marketing, event management and the honors college. We are happy to have them all.”

Can you offer a flexible schedule to student interns? Are the internships paid?

“The amount of time and the schedule are entirely flexible, depending on the project and their schedule. We are open Mon-Sat from 10 to 6 and Sunday from 12 to 4. We also have many events and activities after hours, so we could accommodate many options.”

“We are not able to pay for internships, though it is possible to combine it with work study for students who have a federal work study award. We offer a fun environment, a chance to learn skills for a lifetime, discounts in our store and a chance to meet and network with a wide variety of groups and individuals.”

What is the work environment like at the Peace Center?

“We take our values seriously around inclusion, learning, justice and equality so we aim to be flexible and accommodating as possible. There is a team atmosphere with everyone pitching in to keep the place going and many long-term friendships are made. There are a lot of interactions with people and opportunities to learn, take initiative and try new things.”

Does your company provide other experiences for students, i.e., research, civic engagement, or global experiences?

“Civic engagement is a big part of our work and our center, so students can experience that on a local or regional level, as well as, learning about it on a more global level. Our work in fair trade exposes students to areas around the world through trade relationships if not directly, and students have the opportunity to learn about and research many of the issues going on in our world. Our definition of peace extends to issues including nonviolence, personal well-being, relationships, and care for the environment; so a student with initiative and ideas can find some way to make their interests and passions come together in a learning experience.”

When and how do you generally advertise for internships?

“We have used Griz eRecruiting and also just joined the Volunteer Missoula site for advertising our needs.
Is there anything else a student should know about interning with your company?

“Since our staff is limited, students who come here do better if they are self-starters, able to work independently with minimal supervision”

Call Betsy directly at 543-3955 or email peace@jrpc.org for more information.