Missoula Parks and Recreation MORE Program
Edited by Emily Pritchard

Meg Rogosienksi, Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, from the Missoula Parks and Recreation MORE Program has had interns as long as she has been with Missoula Parks and Rec and continues to invite new students to come work for them. “We offer such a wide variety of programs to a spectrum of participants. You will go from fly fishing one day to working a ropes course with people with disabilities the next.”

Tell us about the MORE Program.

“The MORE program works with organizations and participants all over Western Montana with the primary focus of getting them outdoors and active. We work under the pretense that adventure is a state of mind and we make adventure accessible for every population. As a program run through a city municipality, we work to develop outdoor recreation programs for every population within our community. We offer adaptive outdoor recreation for people with disabilities, adult programs, senior citizen programs, youth after school programs, summer camps, large community events, and volunteer programs to improve our parks and trail system.”

How many years have you had interns?

“I love having interns. It helps bring new talent to our staff team. I have welcomed interns as long as I have worked for Missoula Parks and Recreation.”

What are some of the projects past interns have worked on?

“Past interns have updated wilderness medical policies, spearheaded fly fishing curriculums and trainings, re built movable climbing walls, and planned, implemented, and evaluated outdoor recreation programs for youth on the autism spectrum.”

What is it like working for the MORE Program and what is the schedule like for an intern?

“We are a fun loving and professional team of young adults living in Missoula. Each of us has specific talents and passions we use in our programs and we value this diversity within our group. Although we allow flexibility and creativity in the implementation of programs we strictly follow industry standards for safety on all of our programs and courses.”

“We offer internships and employment year round but full time work is only guaranteed in the summer months.”
“Interns will be guaranteed up to 40 hours a week late May – August. I am very flexible about time off as I believe that we need to be able to recreate and explore on our own time. Staff usually works four days a week, sometimes five but with usually at least two consecutive days off during the week.”

**When and how do you advertise for interns? Are they paid opportunities?**

“We have up to 4 interns at a time. We advertise currently at universities with strong recreation and outdoor recreation programs. These include Prescott, University of Montana, University of New Hampshire, and Radford University. Our internships are paid at an hourly rate at 40 hours a week.”

**Do you normally get a lot of applicants?**

“We do have a large number of applicants as many young professionals in the recreation field would love to have an internship in Missoula. The word is out around the outdoor industry that Missoula is an awesome place to not only recreate but to work. I currently actively advertise with interns primarily through relationships I have with professors at different Universities and by coming in and doing presentations at classes.”

**Are you looking for students with specific qualifications?**

“We, of course, look for students passionate about the outdoors but more importantly we look for interns that have a strong desire to share their passion as experiential outdoor educators. Although having a Wilderness First Responder is preferred, we will train if needed. Experience in any outdoor recreation field is preferred including: rock climbing, white water, backpacking, winter activities, adaptive recreation, navigation, survival skills, mountain biking etc. We do offer extensive training including outdoor leadership, high ropes course, white water guiding, and first aid which is great for people new in the industry looking to build their resume.”

**Do you encourage your interns to be innovative and independent?**

“As part of the MORE Program team, everyone is welcome to help in the creation of programs they are passionate about. We offer such a wide variety of programs to a spectrum of participants. Our scope of programs is much wider than most other agencies as we are a community based recreation program and we work to serve all people in the community regardless of age, gender, or ability.” Because of this variety I only hire people I believe will be flexible, creative, and able to think on their feet. Being that much of our program is set in the outdoors staff has to be able to make thousands of decisions a day as part of a staff team.”

**Did you do an internship as a student? How did your own experiences as a student shape your career?**

“I did several part-time internships and one full-time internship at the conclusion of my undergraduate degree. My internship not only provided direct hands on experience to build my resume, I also began to build relationships with people and other organizations who worked in the industry and who I still work with to this day.”
Do you have any advice for students seeking internships or other experiences in your field? Is there something you wish someone would have told you when you were still in school?

“Do as many internships as you can, volunteer to get in the door if you need to. Gain skills in leading groups especially special interest groups (youth, people with disabilities).”

Where can students go for more information?

“Call me! 406 210 6950”