

15. Designing horticulture education curriculum

Mentors: [Abi Saeed](#) [Kellie Enns](#)

Location: Garfield County

Extension Mentor:

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Position: Agriculture, Horticulture, and Natural Resources Extension Agent
Garfield County Master Gardener Coordinator

Internship Area:

Extension office will be based in Rifle, Colorado

The internship position will cover all of Garfield County: Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Silt, Rifle, and Parachute (in addition to potential events in adjacent counties).

Proposed Internship Goals, Scope, and Objectives:

We are looking for individual(s) with an understanding of Horticulture/Natural Resources/Botany/Entomology or a similar field to assist in designing and delivering educational programs for adults and youth. Based on the applicant's interests and background, the position will entail developing and delivering programs that will strengthen their skills in community education. Specific components may include:

- conducting site visits (to assist individuals with landscape problems)
- maintaining educational garden beds
- collecting and creating educational insect and plant displays for use in teaching
- creating an educational plan, a community presentation, marketing materials, and a follow-up program evaluation to gauge the impact
- designing and implementing educational classes based on community member interest and needs (example: pollinator conservation, plants for Western Colorado, vegetable gardening, backyard birds, bats, etc.)
- taking the lead in creating a hands-on youth-focused educational program pertaining to Natural Resources (example: birdwatching, animal tracking, naturalist hike, etc.)

PRU Activities:

(These are flexible based on the applicants' background and interest)

Natural Resources: 45%

Environmental Horticulture: 45%

4-H Youth Development: 10%

Student Learning Outcomes and Opportunities for Professional Development:

The selected intern will have the opportunity to acquire the following skills:

- 1) Program planning, marketing, delivery, and evaluation

- 2) Teaching adult and youth audiences and the methods/formats that work well for each group
- 3) Collaborating with community partners and volunteers to increase the strength and impacts of programs
- 4) Insect collection techniques, and pinning/displaying insects for teaching purposes
- 5) Creating effective public presentations
- 6) Creating marketing materials on software (Canvas)

How does this position meet identified stakeholder needs in Garfield County:

Garfield County is home to an expanding population of residents with an interest in Horticulture and Natural Resources. This is demonstrated through our increased attendance in Horticultural programming throughout the county, and continued speaking/education requests from community partners (local schools, libraries, etc.). Last year, our Horticulture Agent presented 25 talks/educational events on the topics of Horticulture and/or Natural Resources. As Garfield County continues to grow its residential population, there is an increased demand in education that interests consumer horticulture and natural resources.

Experience with mentorship:

I have acted as a mentor in multiple capacities from informal mentoring of colleagues and graduate students to official mentorship roles (as a Master Gardener Coordinator) for a wide array of Master Gardeners with various experience levels. I have also had the opportunity to be mentored by some great and not-so-great mentors, allowing me to get a better understanding of being an effective and approachable mentor.

My approach to mentoring varies depending on the mentee. That being said, I expect my mentees to be fairly independent and don't feel the need to continually manage their daily activities. I am always available to answer questions and provide feedback- though I will limit my involvement with the specific day to day tasks of their position (unless otherwise requested).

Connections with Faculty:

There are currently no connections with faculty for this project, though anyone in the Soil & Crop Sciences, Natural Resources, Agriculture or Education departments could be a good fit.

Travel Funds / Assistance with Housing:

The intern will have access to our CSU Extension work truck (pending successful background check/driving record).