

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Refugee & Asylee Programs



Internship Description: School Programs' Summer Intern
Department: Community Services, School Programs

About Internships at LFS:

An internship at LFS offers the opportunity to gain a deep understanding of refugee resettlement in the Denver area. Interns will work with individuals from diverse cultures who are forging new beginnings in the United States. Challenging, educational and professional work experience will be gained through professional training and real work assignments that will provide valuable insight to the worlds of refugee resettlement and non-profit organizations. At times, interns will work closely with staff members, and other times independently, managing a workload comparable to LFS staff with the goal of helping advance the mission of LFS. Internships are integrated into the operations at LFS to help build the capacity of the organization while utilizing the diverse skill and talent of the interns. We greatly value the time commitment of each intern.

Description of the Internship:

Interning with School Programs is a wonderful opportunity to connect with school-aged refugee children while helping them integrate and transition into their new communities and school settings. As students adjust to life in America, they face many challenges. Some have not had the opportunity to receive formal education in their home countries, and some are still learning English, so they may fall behind in classes without supplemental support.

The School Programs' Summer Intern will play an instrumental role in the success of LFS' month-long academic camp which focuses on improving students' English and math literacy while also increasing their understanding of American culture. In addition to supporting teachers during instruction time, interns are encouraged to develop a supplementary element (i.e. art, dance, music, sports) that can be delivered alongside the academic portion of camp, so that all children have the chance to grow emotionally and socially as well as academically. Combining these elements allows students to build their confidence and English language ability for the upcoming school year. Once the summer camp has concluded, the intern will assist newcomer families in enrolling their children in public school and providing school readiness orientation so that families are better prepared for school life in America.

During summer camp, the intern will primarily work at Crawford Elementary in Aurora, with weekly educational fieldtrips around Colorado. The remainder of the summer will be split between the Refugee & Asylee Office in Denver and various school districts.

Responsibilities:

- Assists in coordinating and facilitating month-long refugee summer camp at Crawford Elementary.

- Works with contracted instructors and assistants to provide reading and math tutoring support to refugee students in an academic camp setting.
- Provides equal treatment to all student groups in accordance with the agency's commitment to the dignity of all persons.
- Participates in academic and cultural support activities throughout the day.
- Supports refugee families in enrolling their children in public school and providing School Readiness Orientation.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- ESL, GED or other related teaching experience preferred but not required.
- Patience, compassion and understanding in working with students who may not be fully proficient in the English language.
- Ability to communicate and work effectively with students from a diverse variety of age, skill level, and backgrounds groups.
- Preferred candidate should have an interest in teaching, English, international affairs, social work, or related field.
- Experience working in a multicultural environment; foreign language ability a plus.
- Knowledgeable about and sensitivity to the experiences of refugees and immigrants.
- Ability to exercise initiative and judgment and make decisions within the scope of assigned responsibilities.
- Ability to effectively communicate relevant project information to program coordinator, contractors and students.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Excellent writing and communication skills.
- Preferably available starting the week of May 15th.
- Pass a Colorado Bureau of Investigations background check.
- Current driver's license, current insurance and a reliable vehicle is a plus, but not required.

Time Commitment: 20-30 hours/week

Weekly schedule and hours: Flexible: Monday – Thursday, 8am – 3pm

Internship start date: May 15, 2017 or ASAP

Internship end date: August 2016

Intern will report to: Maggie Lautzenheiser-Page, School Programs Coordinator,
Community Services Department