

The Understory Initiative (TUI) is a 501-(c)3 non-profit organization based in Medford, Oregon, with projects throughout the Rogue Basin and South Coast. Our mission is to facilitate the restoration and conservation of native species habitat through partnership and community engagement. As a place-based “sister organization” and of TUI, Vesper Meadow Education Program works to inspire a culture of land stewardship and nature connection through biocultural restoration at Vesper Meadow. Vesper Meadow’s Healing Landscapes Program centers local Indigenous youth and families in land access and restoration, incorporating Indigenous worldview where plants, animals, and humans are interdependent relatives.

### **Healing Landscapes Internship Position - *open to students only***

**Dates:** June - September (start/end date flexible), 2024

*Must be willing to work some weekend days and be located in the Rogue Valley*

**Hours:** 270 total hours; approximately 15 hours/week

**Compensation:** \$1,275 monthly stipend

**Deadline:** Extended until May 16

**Student requirement:** Senior in high school, enrolled in college or university program, or planning to enroll fall 2024. See page 2 for full list of requirements.

*The internship offers a unique opportunity for a student passionate about Indigenous culture, biocultural restoration, and ecological restoration. The intern will engage with land stewardship and restoration activities, including both planning/coordination and hands-on fieldwork, centered on Indigenous worldview and native plant ecology. The intern will gain experience in native plant identification, seed processing, and cleaning.*

#### **Responsibilities:**

1. **Assist** with Healing Landscape events to support Native youth, families, and community and to promote Indigenous worldview and land stewardship at Vesper Meadow.
  - a. **Support** logistical aspects of event preparation including participant registration, transportation coordination, and volunteer communications.
  - b. **Facilitate** group activities, and team-building exercises to promote leadership development, resilience, and connection to the natural world.
2. **Research** and implement additional program tools and/or materials to develop the Healing Landscapes program.
3. **Gather** native seeds in support of The Understory Initiative’s Seeds of Success Program

- a. **Learn** sustainable seed collection practices by participating in the Seeds of Success Training program
  - b. **Process** seeds at our seed-cleaning facility so that they may be applied to habitat restoration projects
4. **Document** and share the work of land restoration and human/community restoration through the Intern's preferred medium: Photo/video and/or written word

#### **Skills & Strengths:**

- **Strong commitment** to Indigenous cultural revitalization, food sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and social justice.
- **Knowledge of or willingness to learn** Indigenous traditions and teachings related to traditional foods, land-based education, and cultural practices.
- **Excellent written and oral communication**, interpersonal, and teamwork skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous elders, youth, and community members.
- **Physically capable** of bending, walking on uneven terrain, spending 3-5 hours outdoors, and lifting up to 50 lbs
- **Fluency** with computer applications such as Google Workspaces and social media platforms.
- **Attention** to detail in learning plant forms and names, recording data in the field

#### **Native Hiring Preference:**

The Understory Initiative and Vesper Meadow will implement a tribal preference policy for this internship position. We encourage self-identified citizens and descendants of state and federally-recognized tribes to apply. However, this is not an application requirement.

The Understory Initiative and Vesper Meadow are committed to creating an inclusive and equitable environment and encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds, including Indigenous peoples, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and persons with disabilities.

#### **Requirements:**

- Ability to work both remotely and in-person
- Access to personal computer for research/communication
- Clear a background check and possess a valid driver's license and form of transportation
- Must be entering senior year in high school OR be a college student, OR planning to enroll fall 2024.

#### **How to Apply:**

Please submit a resume and personal statement of goals and aspirations to Stasia Maxwell at [stasia@vespermeadow.org](mailto:stasia@vespermeadow.org). Applications will be accepted until Thursday, May 16th, with interviews scheduled over the following week. Selected candidate for the internship will be notified by Thursday, May 30th. *Preferred Internship start date: June 1st, 2024.*