



## Clean River Program Special Recovery Field Intern

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### About the San Diego River Park Foundation Internship Program:

Founded in 2001, we are a nonprofit, environmental organization dedicated to the restoration of the San Diego River and creation of the San Diego River Park System. More info at [www.sandiegoriver.org](http://www.sandiegoriver.org).

We seek outgoing and hardworking interns, who are passionate about environmental conservation and community building. Internships at the San Diego River Park Foundation are highly collaborative and feature on-the-job learning for students interested in nonprofits and local environmental issues. These positions are unpaid volunteer opportunities.

### Description of Position:

The Clean River Program Special Recovery Intern will assist in physically removing trash from sites along the San Diego River that have been labeled as “Special Removal”. These sites include trash that may be buried, submerged, require dismantling, or may be large or bulky items requiring creative strategies to remove. The intern will also engage and lead volunteers at community events organized to accomplish these removals.

### Description of Duties:

- Participate in clean-up events by picking up trash, packing trash bags, and hauling trash to dump at staging sites out of the river bed.
- Assist with clean-up prep and break-down.
- Strategize with Clean River Field Associate to create removal plans for river trash.
- Assist with tool usage in the field (some sites may require more heavy-duty equipment, such as reciprocating saws, come-alongs, and waders).
- Hike off-trail to perform field surveys and site assessments within the San Diego River watershed using smartphone mapping technology.
- Perform data entry and database management using established protocols.
- Manage clean-up site data using web-based mapping software.
- Take photographs of volunteer engagement during clean-up events.
- Complete additional support tasks (ex. conducting inventory of program-related tools and supplies, assembling care kits to be given out to people experiencing homelessness in the riverbed).
- *Interns are required to attend an in-person event from a different department once a month.*

### Safety Considerations:

When we survey the riverbed, it is very common to come across individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as their camps and belongings. SDRPF practices a respectful, non-confrontational approach to interactions with all people, including those experiencing homelessness. This intern should be comfortable working in these areas and working alongside outreach workers interacting with persons experiencing homelessness.

**Time Commitment:**

10 - 12 hours per week for a minimum of 3 months (4 months preferred). Majority field work with some at-home hours anticipated. Requires availability on Thursday and *either* Tuesday or Friday.

**Location:**

This position works in the field, in the office, and remotely. Field event locations will vary, but will be along the riverbed between Ocean Beach and Santee. Locations will be given a week in advance. The office is located at 4891 Pacific Hwy #110, San Diego, CA 92110.

**Qualifications:**

- Interns are REQUIRED to be currently enrolled in school or a similar institution.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must believe in the mission and share the values of the SDRPF and have a passion for the environment.
- Must have reliable transportation to office and field sites.
- Able to work as part of a team and show leadership qualities.
- Willingness to learn new skills.
- Good physical condition: able to walk on rough terrain and through dense vegetation, and lift 50 lbs.
- Able to read a map.
- Must be able to attend scheduled cleanup and survey events.
- Willingness to lead and engage volunteers.
- Computer skills including Office Suite and familiarity with web based tools.
- Clear and concise written and verbal communication.
- Professional demeanor, positive and friendly personality.
- Comfortable speaking in front of groups (helpful but not required).

**Benefits:**

- Help to create a better and healthier future for the San Diego River.
- Be a part of an amazing team of passionate staff and volunteers dedicated to the protection of the San Diego River.
- Help make the San Diego region more environmentally aware and engaged!
- Gain experience working in a well-established, successful environmental non-profit.
- Class credit, if offered by your learning institution.
- Gain experience in leadership and project management.
- Gain experience in database management.
- Gain experience in environmental field operations.
- Build up your resume!

**To apply:**

Please email the following materials together in one email:

1. A resume (maximum of two pages).
2. A cover letter stating why this internship will benefit you.

Please send all application materials to the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@sandiegoriver.org](mailto:volunteer@sandiegoriver.org). In your email, state if you plan on applying for multiple SDRPF internships, and which other positions you will be applying for. If you have any questions regarding the application process or the internship, please email the above address or call 619-297-7380.