



## ***Environmental Education Internships***

***Internships are available every spring, summer and fall.***

Stratford Ecological Center is a working organic farm devoted to environmental awareness and appreciation. Among its many goals is the implementation of an environmental education program. Students from preschool through eighth grade visit the farm for unforgettable hands-on interactions with the Earth and its many inhabitants.

Activities range from early elementary lessons in animal and plant discoveries to more in-depth middle-school lessons in food chains and cycles. Interspersed with the learning are experiential activities that promote a familiarity with nature and encourage students to get hands-in: making rock paint at the creek, climbing on the hay, tasting tomatoes, catching tadpoles, milking goats, and thanking plants. Teachers bring their students to Stratford to give them a taste of real farm living, to compliment in-school curriculum, and to foster within each student an appreciation and sense of wonder for nature and all its life forms.

Stratford is a private, nonprofit State Nature Preserve and working farm located just south of Delaware and 30 minutes north of Columbus. There are 236 acres of land, both woods and farmland, in which lies a pond, a creek, two buttonbush swamps, an historic cemetery, and a maple-sugaring house. Farm Camps, festivals, family programs and adult classes make up our educational programs. We are multifaceted with environmental education at the forefront of our mission.

Two interns are needed each season to work side-by-side with the Education Director and Field Trip and Farm Camp Coordinator to prepare and facilitate our education programs.

In the spring and fall, schools come from all over Franklin and Delaware counties to join in our excitement for the land. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the schools are visited in their classroom by staff and interns, preparing and exciting them for their upcoming field trip. Volunteers come Wednesday through Friday and join us in guiding student "Farm and Field Trips" around the land.

In the summer, youth aged 3-17 join us for week-long Farm Camps where they participate in farm chores, tend the gardens, and learn about the Earth through fun and interactive activities and lessons. Interns act as teaching staff, sharing the lessons of the farm with campers.

A love of children, a deep relationship with the land, and a willingness to learn are necessary. In return you will get the experience of teaching and learning with children in our natural world, visiting schools to excite and enlighten, and developing your own personal relationship with the land.

We invite you to call or visit to experience the magic of Stratford first hand. We are open Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am-1:00pm. For more information, please contact our Education Director, Christa Hein at **(740) 363-2548** or **treebeing@aol.com**, or send a resume, application and letter of intent to **Stratford Ecological Center, 3083 Liberty Rd., Delaware, Ohio, 43015**.

For more information and a copy of the application, visit us online at **[www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org](http://www.StratfordEcologicalCenter.org)**.

