N·A·T·U·R·E
Native American Tribes Upholding Restoration & Education

The Nature Conservancy

CANYONLANDS RESEARCH CENTER

NATURE PROGRAM SECOND-YEAR

NATURE stands for **Native American Tribes Upholding Restoration and Education**. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Utah State University launched the program in 2021 at TNC's Canyonlands Research Center at Dugout Ranch. The program has since expanded to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico.

TNC is a global environmental nonprofit whose mission is to conserve the lands and waters that sustain life. Through NATURE, Indigenous college students learn about land management through fieldwork, mentorship, Indigenous knowledge, and Western science. The goal is to help students use their education and skills to serve their own Tribes and communities.

What Students Learn

Students learn about conservation and land management through fieldwork, seminars, and projects. They hear from people working in these fields and consider how that work relates to their own interests and communities. Mentors help students ask questions, develop skills, and think through their education and career choices.

What Comes After NATURE

The second-year internship gives NATURE alumni a chance to put what they have learned into practice. Students will spend eight weeks working on a project with a Tribal agency. An agency project manager will supervise their daily work, and a NATURE mentor will continue to support them throughout the eight-week placement.

Working With Tribal Agencies

Tribal agencies can help students learn about the work needed in their communities and the positions they might pursue. For second-year placements, agencies would identify a project and a supervisor with time to teach and guide a student. NATURE would work with the agency and student to agree on the project, schedule, and support needed before the placement starts.

Funding and Evaluation

Funding will help cover student participation, mentorship, and travel. The second-year placement will cost up to $6,800 per student. During the evaluation phase, students will share what they learned and the work they completed. Program administrators will also collect feedback from mentors and agencies. The goal is to stay in touch with students to understand whether they pursue further education or apply for land management jobs.

Getting Involved

Students interested in NATURE can contact Kristen Redd by email at kristen.redd@TNC.org to learn about eligibility and upcoming opportunities. Alumni can ask about second-year placements. Tribal agencies can suggest projects and supervisors. Participation depends on confirmed dates, application requirements, and available funding.

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SECOND-YEAR INTERNSHIP

The second-year internship will place Indigenous student alumni in paid positions with Tribal agencies for eight weeks. Students will work on a land management project, learn from agency staff, and receive continued support from a NATURE mentor. The goal is to encourage students to pursue land management jobs and use their skills to serve their own Tribes while helping the agency complete the work it needs done.

What Will Students Do

Students will be matched with projects that fit their interests and skills. Students will work 40 hours per week for eight weeks. Duties will depend on the project, including field monitoring, organizing and analyzing information, maintaining records, preparing reports, or helping with education and outreach. Before starting, each student will know what they are expected to do, who will supervise them, and what they should complete by the end of the placement.

Who Provides Support

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will provide the student stipend and pay a NATURE mentor for up to two hours of mentorship each week. The NATURE Program Coordinator will help oversee the placement and address any questions or problems. The host Tribal agency will provide a project manager to supervise the student daily, explain the work, provide training, and give feedback.

Planning and Check-Ins

NATURE and the host agency will develop an MOU before the student starts, with an eight-week schedule. It will set out the project, learning goals, schedule, compensation, resources, and each party's responsibilities. Agency participation will include six meetings with the student, NATURE mentor, and coordinator. The eight-week schedule includes a check-in before the placement, meetings every two weeks, and a final review. A closing survey or interview will ask what went well, what was difficult, and what should change for the next placement.

Cost Per Student

Cost	Amount	Hours
Student stipend	$4,800	40 hours per week for 8 weeks
Mentorship	$1,500	2 hours per week for 10 weeks
Travel	$500	Travel reimbursement maximum
Total	**$6,800**	**Per student**