



Environmental Education Internship at Willow Bend

Angelina Robinson

Undergraduate Research Assistant

During the 2006 fall semester, I completed my Ecological Restoration Institute internship through the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center in Flagstaff. Willow Bend is a non-profit organization whose mission is to “provide environmental education outreach services that build environmental awareness and an ethic of responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural



resources.” The staff at Willow Bend teaches hands on environmental education programs to students throughout northern Arizona in their classrooms and at the Willow Bend Center. This year the discover room theme is “Sustainable Living: It’s Easy Being Green!” My project was to design an interactive hands-on display for Willow Bend’s showroom. My project focused on the effects of climate change on our local environment and what organizations, such as the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership and ERI, are doing to keep our forest healthy and sustainable.

This internship taught me a lot about non-profit organizations. Not only how much work it takes to run one, but also how much fun it is to be involved in making a difference in the community. I have helped with many of Willow Bend’s community events, including Harry Potter Astronomy Night, Build a Better Lunch, and Simplifying the Holidays. Some of my duties at Willow Bend have been to design posters, do research, facilitate field trips, and give tours at the Norton



Municipal Recycling Center. My favorite responsibility has been to give tours at the recycling center for elementary students. One of the greatest things to witness as an educator is how eager children are to learn and answer questions. This internship has also given me the opportunity to become a better public speaker as well as learn how to interact with students.

As an Environmental Science major, I believe that education is the key to a sustainable future. I recommend working for Willow Bend to anyone who is interested in educating future generations about environmental issues and the importance of living sustainably.