

2012 Seasonal Position Announcement

KIMBERLY APPELSON MEMORIAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP INTERN

1 position available

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) is a nonprofit organization working to protect and preserve the natural integrity of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks through active stewardship and public education. www.14ers.org



CFI seeks to hire the **Kimberly Appelson Memorial Outdoor Leadership Intern** to assist with leading CFI's Adopt-a-Peak volunteer groups on trail maintenance and restoration projects on Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks (Fourteeners). The Appelson Intern will find this to be an engaging yet challenging position working on valuable conservation projects in a high-elevation backcountry setting. This internship position is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in outdoor group leadership skills, trail maintenance, and alpine restoration.

The internship is named after Kimberly Appelson who was born and raised in the suburban Chicago area but vacationed frequently as a child throughout the western United States and Canada on family hiking and skiing trips. Following graduation from the University of Iowa in May 2009, the lure of the western mountains drew Kimberly back to spend six months repairing and maintaining Forest Service trails in central Montana as part of a Montana Conservation Corps crew. Later that year Kimberly moved to Breckenridge to wait tables and improve her skiing in hopes of becoming a ski patroller. When the snow melted, she worked as a whitewater rafting guide on the Arkansas River, spending her free time climbing the nearby Sawatch Range Fourteener peaks. She aspired to one day summit all 54 Colorado

Fourteeners. However, on July 11, 2010, Kimberly perished in a rafting accident near Frog Rock while rafting the Arkansas River with friends. She was 23.

PROGRAM AND POSITION INFORMATION

CFI's Adopt-a-Peak program is a partnership with volunteer groups who carry out annual trail maintenance and restoration projects on Colorado's Fourteeners. Volunteer groups vary from working professionals to high school students to outdoor club members. Under the mentorship of an experienced CFI Trail Project Leader, the Kimberly Appelson Memorial Outdoor Leadership Intern will receive training in leading volunteers in an outdoor/backcountry setting, trail maintenance, and alpine revegetation/restoration techniques. The Appelson Intern will camp during all work hitches: about 60% of the time in frontcountry (car) camping and 40% backcountry (backpacking) camping. The work is physically demanding and is performed at high altitude in a backcountry environment. The Adopt-a-Peak Project Leadership Team consists of a Trail Project Leader and the Appelson Intern. This position begins in late May or early June and runs through late September or early October. For more information on the Adopt-a-Peak program, visit <http://www.14ers.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer/group-projects-corporate-partnerships/>.

The Kimberly Appelson Memorial Outdoor Leadership Internship is designed for those who are in or graduated from a related program of study, and/or have equivalent work experience. Relevant programs of study include natural resources, outdoor education/leadership, ecology; or a demonstrated a connection between their field of study and the Outdoor Leadership Internship.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **The Appelson Memorial Outdoor Leadership Intern will work primarily on two types of projects:**
 1. Primary responsibility: Coordinate with the CFI Trail Project Leader to assist with leading volunteer projects (Adopt-a-Peak groups) on trail maintenance and alpine restoration projects throughout the Colorado Rockies. (Approximately 80% of the season.)
 2. Secondary responsibility: Working as a small trail crew to carry out high-priority, high-elevation trail maintenance projects when not working with volunteer groups. (Approximately 20% of the season.)
- **Project site responsibilities** with volunteer groups include:
 1. Train, supervise, and engage volunteers in project tasks.
 2. Oversee safety and project site goals.
 3. Carry out education/outreach responsibilities, including educating volunteers and hikers on Leave-No-Trace and alpine ecology.
- **Assist with day-to-day operations** of Adopt-a-Peak and trail maintenance projects, including logistical planning (travel planning, tool preparation), health and safety, interaction with the public, and tool/equipment maintenance.

- **Update the CFI blogsite** with reports on a weekly basis, as well as report crew progress daily via the Spot locator unit.
- **Present a positive, motivating attitude** for volunteer groups.
- **Work as a positive, pro-active member** of the Adopt-a-Peak leadership team.
- **Other tasks as assigned** to contribute to the overall administration and operations of CFI's projects.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have:

- Positive and professional attitude
- Desire to learn and practice effective group leadership and motivation skills
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills in a group setting
- Excellent physical condition – ability to hike and work physically for 8-10 hours/day at altitude
- Passion about the outdoors and a strong conservation ethic
- Proficiency in outdoor skills (i.e. backpacking, camping, hiking)
- Willingness and ability to live and perform strenuous work at high altitude for multiple consecutive days
- Attention to detail
- Applicants are *not* expected to be skilled in trail work or have extensive outdoor leadership experience

Other desired qualifications include:

- Some education or background in Natural Resource Management, ecology, or related field
- Some education or background in outdoor leadership and/our environmental education

ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- Current valid drivers license and good driving record
- Certification in either a) Wilderness First Aid and CPR, or b) Wilderness First Responder (or have obtained these by the first date of employment)
- A personal vehicle to get to work rendezvous points
- Adequate personal outdoor camping/backpacking/hiking equipment
- Be available for the full term (or nearly full term) of the position: early June through late Sept or early Oct

WORK SCHEDULE

The weekly work schedule will be variable (averaging 40 hours/week), with most volunteer projects taking place on weekends, work hitches up to 10 days in length, and some evenings required. Extensive travel, occasionally with a personal vehicle, is required.

WAGES AND BENEFITS

CFI seasonal interns are paid \$1200 per month to offset costs associated with this position. Other benefits include a \$16/day per diem for field days, a medical training allowance, and discounts on outdoor gear and equipment. Travel with a personal vehicle is reimbursed at the federal rate.

HOW TO APPLY

Position available until filled. However, preference will be given to applications received by **Wednesday, March 29, 2012**. To apply, you will need to submit: 1) a CFI online application, 2) a one-page cover letter, and 3) your resume as follows:

- Fill out and submit an online **Application for Seasonal Employment & Internships** (link available on our website at www.14ers.org). Included in the online application will be instructions for how to submit your cover letter and resume to CFI. (Note: Cover letter and resume must be in MS Word or PDF format only.)

If you have trouble with the online application process, contact cfi@14ers.org

Finalists will be required to complete a medical history, physician's release form, and a driving background check.

All questions pertaining to these positions can be directed to cfi@14ers.org (please, no phone inquiries). For additional information about CFI, please visit our website at www.14ers.org.

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative is an equal opportunity employer.

**Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
607 10th Street, Suite 107N
Golden, CO 80401**