

Dry Bones

Summer Internship Information

2019

Internship Dates

- May 26 – Aug 3
- Off week (off of work completely to refuel, explore Colorado, go home, etc.) = June 30 – July 7

Who can apply for the Dry Bones summer internship?

For the summer internship, we accept applications from people who have finished at least their first year of college or are at least 20 years old.

What is Dry Bones?

Dry Bones is a nonprofit ministry that, practicing the ways of Jesus, seeks to meet the spiritual and physical needs of houseless¹ and street-connected youth and young adults. These youth and young adults, or “street kids” as they call themselves, range in age from their mid-teens to late twenties. Of the roughly 10,000 houseless people in the Denver metro area, about 800-1,000 identify as street kids. Dry Bones seeks to build close loving relationships with these young people, recognizing that doing so is done most effectively in smaller groups. While we hope all 800-1,000 street kids in Denver recognize and embrace their unsurpassable worth, our community gatherings create space for anywhere from 10 to 50 street kids at a time. We seek to offer ample time to less people as opposed to little time to more people.

Alongside the community building work we do with street kids, we do community building work with volunteers and various community partners in the Denver area, seeking to connect people who may not otherwise cross paths or interact deeply. We believe the presence of housed community members is vital to the Dry Bones community, for we all—whether housed or unhoused—possess unsurpassable worth and have something to offer. Furthermore, we all have something to learn from others.

We have a staff and intern retreat over the first few days of the internship, and it is at this retreat where interns will learn about Dry Bones in even more depth. In the meantime, please familiarize yourself with our vision and mission by visiting our website (<https://drybonesdenver.org/>) and watching the following short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlPajqO-zok>.

Summertime at Dry Bones

As part of our community building work, we invite church youth groups to join us for our Elevations program during the summer, a different youth group coming each week. To

¹We use the term *houseless* instead of *homeless* because it emphasizes the idea that the only certain difference between someone on the streets and someone who is housed is the fact that the person on the streets does not have a house to sleep in.

emphasize the fact that the Elevations program is intended to be a learning experience for the youth group members, one in which they are challenged to see the world as God sees the world, we refer to each week of Elevations as a vision trip rather than a mission trip. For the first three days of each week, we take each youth group to the mountains where we camp, go hiking, and engage in contemplative exercises that challenge all involved to consider how God sees the world and what it means to follow Jesus in that world. For the remainder of the week, the youth group joins us in our work in the city, developing relationships with and learning from our friends on the street. *While it is important that summer interns be excited about ministry among houseless and street-connected youth, it is also very important that summer interns are equally excited for ministry among church youth group students.* To learn more about our Elevations program, go to our website here: <https://drybonesdenver.org/elevations/>.

Mountain Intern

Each week, one staff member and two interns will take the Elevations group to the mountains. One of our summer interns will be the mountain intern and will go with the Elevations groups to the mountains every week and spend much less time in the city. **If you are interested in being the mountain intern, please let us know in your application.* It is important that the mountain intern be particularly excited about ministry among youth group members, as those are the people the mountain intern will spend most of their time around.

Weekly Schedule for Mountain Intern

Each week, the Elevations group will arrive in Denver Monday morning, leave for the mountains Monday afternoon, head back to Denver Thursday morning, and head back home Saturday evening. The mountain intern will work all day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday as well as Saturday afternoon, and will have Friday, Saturday morning, and Sunday off.

City Interns

Each city intern will get to go to the mountains with an Elevations group at least once during the summer and will have a schedule similar to that of the mountain intern for that week. The city interns who do not go with the Elevations group on a given week will engage in teaching times with Dry Bones staff members and other community workers in the Denver area, develop new relationships with young people on the streets through street outreach, and deepen existing relationships through various community gatherings. Once the Elevations group returns to Denver, the city interns will serve as a bridge between the youth group members and our friends on the streets.

Weekly Schedule for City Interns

City interns will typically work from 9:30 am to noon on Monday, from 9 or 10 am until 4 or 5 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, and from 10 am until 7:30 pm on Thursday. City interns will have all day Sunday and Monday afternoon off.

Ministry Philosophies

Because Dry Bones is present on the streets throughout the year, not just in the summer, it is important that all summer internship applicants familiarize themselves with and agree to abide by Dry Bones' ministry philosophies, listed below.

- We seek to meet our friends where they are and stay away from proselytizing or forcefully preaching at our friends. We hope our friends come to know God's deep love, but identifying as a Christian is not a requirement for participation in the Dry Bones community. We aim to affirm every person's unsurpassable worth, and all who we come into contact with are to be welcomed as Christ, regardless of the religious tradition with which they associate themselves. It is vital for interns to be willing to meet Dry Bones' friends where they are.
- We believe that ministry, like all genuine relationships, is a two-way street. We are not perpetually the givers, and our friends on the streets are not perpetually the receivers. We as a staff consistently learn from our friends, and it is imperative that interns approach their relationships with people on the streets with a willingness to learn.
- Finally, we avoid trying to "fix" our friends. While there are definitely times our friends genuinely need a word of constructive critique, we seek to offer such a word in the context of deep relationship. Often, presence is what our friends need the most, someone to listen to them well and affirm the dignity and humanity they inherently possess. It is crucial that interns spend ample time listening to and being present with our friends before trying to offer any word of constructive critique.

When interns familiarize themselves with and abide by the above philosophies, they greatly help further the mission of Dry Bones and develop relationships on the streets that could be dear to the Dry Bones community for years to come.

Community Living

All summer interns will live together at a community house less than two miles from the office at an affordable rent (more details about this to come later). There are a handful of people who live in the house year-round, including the summer, so it is important that all interns are willing to live in close community with a fair number of people.

Fundraising and Expenses

Dry Bones runs largely on donations from individuals and churches and partially on grants. *All interns are responsible for raising their own income for the summer*, around \$3,000-3,750. Any amount over \$3,750 you raise will be shared among any interns who have not been able to raise the full amount. The money you raise will be given to you in the form of paychecks from Dry Bones throughout the summer. (Note: All Dry Bones staff engage in fundraising on their own.) Once hired, interns will receive a packet with more guidelines on how to raise this money. If the idea of fundraising bothers you, we recommend looking into a book by Henri Nouwen entitled *A Spirituality of Fundraising* or finding other resources that will help you think deeply about both the ethics and value of fundraising. We by no means want to ignore the difficulty that fundraising can pose, but we want to emphasize the gift that fundraising can be. Sharing a vision for a better world and providing people with the opportunity to invest in making that vision a reality can be a beautiful experience.

All interns will be responsible for covering their own food, entertainment, and transportation costs. (However, a few meals are provided at Dry Bones gatherings a few times each week.) All interns will also be responsible for paying for their own personal living needs at the community house (e.g. toiletries, snacks).

The Hiring Process

If you are interested in interning with Dry Bones for the summer after reading all of the above, **email Haley Andreades (haley@drybonesdenver.org) for an application.**

***All applications, along with a copy of your résumé and a recent photo, are due no later than Friday, February 22nd, 2019.** You can find information about where to submit the application on the last page of the application. We will let you know once we have received your application, then we will contact you to either schedule an interview (which can be a video interview) or let you know that we have decided to not take your application any further. Should you receive an interview, we will check your references after the interview and make a hiring decision. **We aim to inform all applicants of hiring decisions by Monday, April 1st, 2019.**