



Dry Bones Summer Internship Program Information 2024

Internship Dates

- May 23 - August 3 (Please plan to arrive in Denver by the evening of the 22nd, and return home on August 4 or 5)
- Wee off: 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, physical, and emotional needs of houseless and street-connected youth and young adults through long-term relationships. These youth and young adults, or “street kids” as they call themselves, range in age from their mid-teens to late twenties or early thirties. Of the over 6,000 people experiencing houselessness in the Denver metro area, several hundred 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 street kids in the Denver area 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.

Dry Bones is deeply relational and not programmatic. Our friends experiencing houselessness do not have to fill out an intake form to become part of the Dry Bones community, and there is no set program they have to move through. Furthermore, we do not age people out of the Dry Bones community, recognizing the importance of long-term supportive relationships. Though we do not invite people over 30 years old into the Dry Bones community for the sake of our young friend's safety and comfort, we do not age people out of the community once they turn 30.

Alongside the community building work we do with street kids, we build community among and 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>.

Purple Door Coffee

Though Dry Bones is largely not programmatic, Purple Door Coffee is. Purple Door Coffee is Dry Bones' social enterprise and job training program. Purple Door is a year-long program that exists to reclaim and sustain the lives of young adults seeking to leave houselessness behind through supportive and meaningful employment. To learn more about PDC, visit www.purpledoorcoffee.com.

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. To 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, visit <https://drybonesdenver.org/elevations/>.

Internship Schedule

Each intern will get to go to the mountains with an Elevations group at least once during the summer and will have a different schedule for that week. The 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 interns will serve as a bridge between the youth group members and our friends on the streets. Please note that interning with Dry Bones requires flexibility – this schedule is tentative and will be changed as necessary. With the unpredictability of the lives of our street friends, weather, and other variables, interns must remain flexible and adaptable to changes as they come.

Weekly Schedule for Interns

Interns will work from 9 until 4 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, from 10 am until 8 pm on Thursday, and Saturday 9am to 7pm. Interns will have all day Sunday and Monday off.

Schedule for Weeks Spent on the Mountain

Two interns will accompany our Elevations group on the mountain each week. Interns rotate responsibilities so that each intern spends at least one to two weeks of the summer on the mountain.

Elevations groups arrive in the mountains on Monday morning, head back to Denver Thursday morning, and go home on Saturday evening. The two interns that are assigned to be on the mountain for that week will work Monday through Saturday, with the exception of having a few hours off on both Thursday and Friday.

Formation

This internship program is designed not only to give you exposure to and experience within a non-profit ministry setting but also to create space for you to engage in spiritual, emotional, and vocational formation. At least two times a week during the internship program, city interns will participate in what we call teaching times. During these teaching times, we will engage in some form of formation, whether it be led by a Dry Bones staff member or a visiting speaker or centered around a visit to another community organization.

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 or spiritual 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 when our friends genuinely need a word of constructive critique, we seek to offer such a word in the context of a 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 stipends for the summer*, the maximum being \$5,000. Any amount over \$5,000 you raise will go into Dry Bones' general fund and may 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 a monthly stipend from Dry Bones throughout the summer. Once hired, interns will receive guidelines for raising this money. If the idea of fundraising feels uncomfortable to 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 Acceptance Process

***We accept applications and make acceptance decisions on a rolling basis. Email lauren@drybonesdenver.org to inquire about internship availability.**

To apply, click [here](#) or visit

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwcfZ6Gt4QNcH1kjIB2Judj9Fss6mA-OxkKpNQXT2qokdelg/viewform?usp=sf_link.

We will let you know once we have received your application, then we will contact you to either schedule a video interview or let you know that we have decided to not take your application any further.