



BRUSHWOOD CENTER
AT RYERSON WOODS

POSITION OPENING

HEN Youth Leadership Cohort

BRUSHWOOD CENTER AT RYERSON WOODS

Located among pristine woodlands in the Ryerson historic home in Riverwoods, IL. Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods works toward a future of resilient and connected communities, both human and ecological, where all lead healthy and thriving lives.

Since 1984 Brushwood Center has been a nexus between communities, nature, and the arts. With a focus on youth, families, Veterans, seniors, artists, and local residents, our programs lift up the strengths, assets, and hopes of communities to achieve greater environmental, racial, and economic justice. We work with more than 80 partners and 350 artists annually to offer programs centered on physical and emotional health, artistic and musical creativity, and community and personal wellbeing.

Website: www.brushwoodcenter.org

Address: 21850 N Riverwoods Rd, Riverwoods, IL 60015

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Brushwood Center is seeking two enthusiastic candidates with experience in community engagement, as well as a passion for public health and the outdoors. The Health Equity & Nature (HEN) Youth Leadership Cohort will work closely with the Coalition Building Manager, Senior Program Director, Lead Research Fellow, and Communications team. The cohort members will primarily focus on projects that move forward recommendations from the 2023 Health Equity and Nature Report, as well as pursuing related projects based on personal interest/passions. Potential projects include:

- Work with current partners as well as developing new relationships with various stakeholders (clinics, environmental justice, food justice organizations, etc.)
- Expand report findings with updated data analyses and addendums, including use of resources like the Climate Vulnerability Index and water quality data (ex. Lead and PFA levels)
- Assisting Accelerator Research Team in building out phase 2 of the TIERRA nature-based mental health intervention program for community health workers and research effective models of scaling community health trainings
- Continue report and data distribution to stakeholders and community members
- Collaborate on special events and presentations with community organizations, such as Clean Power Lake County's summer intern cohort
- The ideal candidate for this role will be able to apply Brushwood Center's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion to all aspects of their role.

About the Health, Equity, and Nature Accelerator:

Brushwood Center's Health, Equity, and Nature Accelerator aims to activate healthcare investment in nature-based solutions and drive collaboration among community, governmental, environmental, and healthcare sectors in Lake County and the larger Chicago region. The Accelerator was born in response to growing community demand and momentum for systemic changes to address racial and ethnic inequities at the intersection of health, climate, and nature. Building on Brushwood Center's decades of on-the-ground community engagement experience in Lake County, the Accelerator also responds directly to the lessons Brushwood Center took from our pandemic-response work.

About the Health Equity and Nature Report:

Everyone deserves a healthy environment and access to the outdoors. Clean air, water, and access to the outdoors are vital to human health. Health, Equity, and Nature: A Changing Climate in Lake County, IL outlines key findings and recommendations for improving wellbeing in Lake County, Illinois, by addressing systemic inequities at the intersection of environment and health. This report was born out of conversations from the community surrounding the need for a report to compile current quantitative and qualitative data around environmental justice, health equity, and access to green spaces in Lake County. The report can be accessed here: <https://www.brushwoodcenter.org/thehenreport.html>

QUALIFICATIONS

We are seeking dynamic, collaborative professional leaders with at least one year of experience in community organizing and/or community engagement. These individuals will be adaptable, passionate, and highly organized. Key qualifications include the following:

- Currently pursuing a degree, either part time or full time, in a related field or interest area
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Knowledge of Lake County, IL community.
- Reliable transportation that will allow for traveling to and from meetings and community engagement events
- Must possess cultural competence and a commitment to racial justice and equity, and has an interest in climate justice and or health equity
- Fluency in Spanish is preferred.

Equal Opportunity Employer: Brushwood Center is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by the law.

As an organization, Brushwood Center is committed to equity work as an ongoing journey. We celebrate diversity and are committed to co-creating an inclusive work environment with our talented team.

HOURS/DURATION: 20-25 hours per week, May - August of 2024

COMPENSATION: \$18 per hour

APPLY BY: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, but should be submitted no later than April 30 for consideration. Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter describing their qualifications and resume to Angela Ramirez, Administrative Coordinator, at aramirez@brushwoodcenter.org.