

**Position Title:**

Elakha Alliance Tribal Youth Internships

Requirements:

Interns must self-identify as Native American/Native Hawaiian/Native Alaskan and be enrolled as an undergraduate in an Oregon college.

Application Deadline:

May 23rd, 2022

Contact:

For additional information, please contact Chanel Hason (chanel@elakhaalliance.org)

About the Elakha Alliance

The Elakha Alliance (www.elakhaalliance.org) is an Oregon-based nonprofit that includes conservationists, academics, lawyers, tribal members, and scientists. The sole objective of the Elakha Alliance's mission is to restore a healthy population of sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) to the Oregon coast, and to thereby help to make Oregon's marine and coastal nearshore ecosystem more robust and resilient.

"Elakha" is the Chinook trading language word for sea otter. These mammals were once plentiful in coastal waters all along the Pacific Coast. For thousands of years, sea otters and coastal native peoples had strong relationships with each other and the nearshore marine environment. But in the 1700s and 1800s sea otters were decimated by hunting for their pelts, and by 1910 they were eliminated from Oregon.

Since then a catastrophic loss of kelp forests has occurred along the Pacific Coast due to a superabundance of herbivorous sea urchins and a super deficiency of their main predators, sea stars and sea otters. Until apex predators are returned, the urchins will continue to clearcut our kelp forests, resulting in loss of fish and invertebrate species diversity, carbon sequestration capacity, and ecosystem health and economic services. The goal of the Elakha Alliance is to reverse these trends. Reintroducing sea otters to Oregon is a logical step -- perhaps the only ecologically and practically sound proactive step available -- for restoring and sustaining the West Coast's magnificent underwater forests and their denizens.



Project Summaries

The Elakha Alliance is seeking to fill **two paid Full Time Summer Internship positions** for tribal youth to support the mission to reintroduce sea otters back to the Oregon coast. If necessary, we will also *entertain the opportunity to hire one Full Time Summer Intern, coupled with two Part Time Summer Interns*. We are seeking undergraduate students along the central Oregon coast, and southern Oregon coast who identify themselves as Indigenous. The Elakha Alliance has received funding from the Siletz Tribal Community Foundation and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund to support these Internships.

1. **Full Time Summer Internships (10 weeks):** There are multiple project options for the Full Time Summer Internship. Interns can pick which best suits their skills and interests.

Options include:

- a. TRAVELING DISPLAY: The intern would create a traveling visual display highlighting the cultural significance of sea otters on the Oregon coast. The Coquille Tribe Community Fund has provided a grant to cover the costs of the display itself. This would be an excellent opportunity for students who are creative, artistic, or graphic designers. The display could incorporate Indigenous stories of sea otters from Oregon tribes, historical photographs, and maps of where sea otters were present. With assistance from Elakha's South Coast Liaison, the intern would be responsible for identifying and contacting south coast locations to schedule the display for public viewing. The intern will conclude the internship with an Elakha Alliance webinar to present their final project summary and discuss key takeaways.
- b. CULTURAL VIDEO: The intern would create a 4-7 minute video after contacting and interviewing pertinent tribal elders (from one or more Tribe) to create an oral history of sea otters in Oregon. This could also include tribal members' views on what a reintroduction of sea otters would personally mean to them. At the end of the internship, the intern will be featured in an Elakha Alliance webinar to present the video and discuss their project.
- c. PODCAST: The intern would create a podcast about the cultural significance of sea otters in Oregon and what an introduction would mean to Oregon coastal tribes. The intern would write and record a narrative and perhaps include interviews conducted with elders, tribal members, and others to illustrate the story. At the end of the internship, the intern will be featured in an Elakha Alliance webinar to present the podcast and discuss the final project.



2. **Part Time Summer Internships (4 weeks):** There is one project Partial Summer Internship, and we are open to other possible project suggestions if presented by an Intern in your cover letter. Intern can pick the project that best suits their skills and interests.
- a. **SOCIAL MEDIA PACKET:** The intern would work with the Elakha Alliance Director of Outreach and Community Engagement to produce a packet of social media posts highlighting the cultural significance of sea otters in Oregon. This would involve doing outreach to Oregon's coastal tribes to gather historical information. The intern would identify a list of tribal-related webpages and social media accounts (locally, state-wide, perhaps even regional/national) that could be interested in Elakha's work. The Elakha Director of Outreach would assist the intern in outreach to these sites and accounts to invite them to link to the page and materials created by the intern and the Elakha Alliance.
 - b. **FAQ SHEETS & VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT:** The intern would develop one or two Frequently Asked Questions sheets (FAQ) about the cultural implications of reintroducing sea otters that would become part of the information materials used by the Elakha Alliance at public events. The Elakha Director of Outreach and Community Relations would assist the intern in outreach to the appropriate tribal and other social media sites and accounts to invite them to link to these FAQ products created by the intern and the Elakha Alliance. Time allotting, the intern can also assist with the creation of a volunteer management database.

Timeline

- ***Full Summer Internship(s):*** Summer Session
June 13 - August 20 (10 weeks) x 20 hrs per week
- ***Partial Summer Internship(s):*** Summer Session
June 13 - August 20 (any 4 week consecutive period in between the dates listed) x 25 hrs per week

Compensation : \$20/hr

- ***2 Full Summer Internships:*** 200 hours/each (\$4,000/each)

OR

- ***1 Full Summer Internship:*** 200 hours (\$4,000)
- ***2 Partial Summer Internships:*** 100 hours/each (\$2,000/each)



Location + Equipment

The intern would work remotely, but would meet in person with the Elakha Alliance Director of Outreach at least twice during the internship. Students must have access to a computer and internet, with a video camera for Zoom meetings.

Hourly Work Parameters

Although work will typically occur weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, the intern may offer alternative work hours to the Elakha Alliance Director of Outreach. The intern will be required to record hours worked and tasks performed, and report weekly on Friday to the Elakha Alliance's Director of Outreach.

Special Considerations

Interns must self-identify as either/or Native American/Native Hawaiian/Native Alaskan.

Reimbursements

The Elakha Alliance can provide funding for students to purchase specific software to complete their project. Limited mileage reimbursement can be provided for any travel involved (current Oregon mileage reimbursement rule is 58.5 cents/mile).

Perks & Professional Development

There is an opportunity for the interns to sit in on an Elakha Alliance Board Member Meeting, and have a one-on-one meeting with a Board Member they choose. Interns will get the opportunity to meet their fellow interns (in person or virtually) and connect about the process of their projects throughout the internship. We're hoping to coordinate a trip to a location on the Oregon coast for the interns to learn about marine ecosystems firsthand from Elakha Alliance's Director of Outreach (transportation provided). Each intern will present their finished product on an Elakha Alliance Webinar at the end of the Summer Session.

How to Apply

Please fill out this [Application Form](#), where you're also able to upload your Cover Letter and Resume. Considerations will begin May 23rd, 2022.