

## Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

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- Organization:  
New Haven Parks Recreation and Trees
  - Full street address of organization:  
720 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven CT 06515
  - Website:  
[www.cityofnewhaven.com/parks](http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/parks)
  - Name and title of the Direct Supervisor (*please note: the Direct Supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*):  
Martin Torresquintero
  - Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor:  
203 946 6768, 203 627 4909 mobile, mtorresq@newhavenct.gov
  - Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30 and Friday, August 11, 2017*):  
May 30 to August 11, 2017
  - Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe:  
Yes, we can accommodate earlier and/or later dates
  - Hours of the program (*placements should be equivalent to full-time*):  
Most programs will be run between 9-5 Monday to Friday, but expect to run adventure programs on evenings and/or selected weekends.
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## Placement Description

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- Organization description (*Mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*):  
The Outdoor Adventure Program, offers unique, challenging, safe and fun learning experiences for children, youth and adults. The Goal is to foster an appreciation of local resources by providing exposure to bio-diversity and outdoor adventure activities. These activities, specially tailored to the needs and abilities of the participants, will help raise the eco-consciousness as well as the self-confidence levels of the participants. This summer the Outdoor Adventure Program will continue to expand outdoor adventure activities for people with disabilities, and well as to expand the paddling and cycling programs across New Haven.
- Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting  
Summer of 2017 we will performing activities such as: canoeing, fishing, hiking, nature interpretation, sea-kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, orienteering, introduction to scuba diving, use of the portable climbing wall, rock climbing, white water rafting, mountain biking, road cycling trips, and team building activities at our ropes course (high and low). We will perform in-house training, thus, it is not required for a Fellow to possess prior experience in such activities.
- Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.  
Work will be primarily with the summer camps, and the Outdoor Adventure Program activities geared towards the general public (which includes New Haven residents and non-residents). We will also work with participants with Physical disabilities.

By taking on progressively more challenging experiences, participants will learn team-building, cooperation, and conflict resolution. Fellows will help the teams establish goals that call for planning, group decision-making, task designation, and group action. Furthermore, meetings before and after the activities will help to create clear communication channels and cooperation.

Likewise, we will exemplify a low-impact lifestyle in our city parks, provide residents with a first-hand understanding of the effects that human activities impose on nature, while giving instruction in natural history and environmentally responsible choices, in an effort to engender a sense of care for our natural resources.

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The Fellow will be working with the Outdoor Adventure Coordinator, the Park Rangers, camp counselors, naturalists, as well as some of the best scuba and white-water kayaking/rafting guides in the country. During the weeks prior to the summer camps, we will spend a lot of time arranging logistics, getting gear ready, and doing paperwork. From the end of June until the end of the program, we will be providing activities and travelling over all the camp sites (transportation provided).

Fellow will be representing the Parks Department and the City of New Haven, thus, they will be expected to behave in an exemplary way. Parks Department shirts will be provided, so Fellows are expected to wear them daily.

Fellow must be patient, feel comfortable with, and to help guide/supervise youth and adults of different ethnic and economic backgrounds, be willing to have fun, and to make a difference in a kid's life.

- Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):  
Our in-house training is designed to ensure that the Fellow will be able to: be a safe cyclist, safe canoe, SUP, and kayak leader, be able to handle a single sit-on-top and/or sit-in kayak, be efficient with climbing knots, know how to belay, know how to properly fit harnesses and helmets on a wide range of participants of all sizes and ages, as well as to know how to read topographic maps, and how to use compasses and GPS units. Certification in community CPR and First Aid will be provided if necessary. Parks Department will cover all the cost related to training, and required equipment.
  - Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, please include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):
    - Have a clean police record, and agree to a record and background check.
    - Must be in good physical condition.
    - Must be a good swimmer, and feel comfortable in water.
    - Ideally, Fellow should know how to ride a 21 speed mountain bike, and/or road bike.
    - Having a valid driver's license, or vehicle, will be a plus but not necessary. In the past, Fellows have relied on bicycles and/or public transportation to go to the different sites (Parks Headquarters at 720 Edgewood Ave, West Rock Nature Center, East Rock Park, and Lighthouse Park). During the summer there will be a few evening and/or weekend programs such as monument tours, bike excursions,
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climbing wall programs, full moon kayaking excursions, etc. In addition, there will be three overnight white water rafting trips.

- Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your agency in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, please describe any work that Yale students have done with your agency.

It has been a great opportunity for us to have such enthusiastic and consummate Fellows since the year 2000. They have brought a lot of new ideas, and have been crucial in designing, planning and implementing the summer Outdoor Adventure Program. Fellows have also gained knowledge of a wide variety of outdoor adventure skills: from fixing bikes to learning to SCUBA dive. Fellows have also interacted with people from a wide variety of social and economic backgrounds. Once again, I would like to have the pleasure of working with a fellow conducting a wide array of Environmental Education and Outdoor Adventure Programs scheduled for the summer of 2017.

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