

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2017

- Organization: Yale Peabody Museum
 - Full street address of organization: 170 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT, 06511
 - Website: peabody.yale.edu
 - Name and title of the Direct Supervisor (*please note: the Direct Supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis*): Josue Irizarry and David Heiser
 - Phone number and e-mail address of Direct Supervisor:

Josue.irizarry@yale.edu, 203-432-3776
david.heiser@yale.edu, 203-432-9545
 - Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 30 and Friday, August 11, 2017*): all 11 weeks
 - Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: yes, could be shorter placement by starting later than May 30, but needs to run through August 11.
 - Hours of the program (*placements should be equivalent to full-time*): 37.5 hrs/wk
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Placement Description

- Organization description (*Mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.*):

The mission of the Peabody Museum of Natural History is to serve Yale University by advancing our understanding of earth's history through geological, biological, and anthropological research, and by communicating the results of this research to the widest possible audience through publication, exhibition, and educational programs. From a real *Brontosaurus* skeleton to a beautifully preserved 2500-year-old Egyptian mummy, the Peabody's exhibits are seen by nearly 150,000 visitors each year, many from the Greater New Haven community. The hands-on Discovery Room includes a live leaf-cutter ant colony, poison dart frogs, and other live animals, plus hundreds of touchable specimens. Each year, the Peabody provides educational programs on biology, paleontology, geology and ancient civilizations to over 25,000 visitors. All programs draw on Museum exhibits and hands-on specimens to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of science and social studies education, and science programs are aligned with Connecticut and Next Generation Science Standards.

- Please write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting (*50 words or less. This will be used as your agency's project description summary on the PPSF website, so please be succinct*):

The Yale Peabody Museum seeks an enthusiastic and outgoing PPSF to serve as a lead counselor for the Museum's summer day camps in July and August, including training and activity development in June. Our well-loved camps serve local elementary school children. This is informal science education at its most rewarding!

- Please write a complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (*Suggested length: one to two pages.*)

The President's Public Service Fellow will spend her/his time in the Youth and Community Programs division of the Museum, serving as a lead counselor for the summer camp programs, as detailed below.

Summer Camp Programs

The Yale Peabody Museum has been offering educational, theme-based summer camps to elementary school children since 2004. In 2017, we plan to run 12 weeklong summer

camps at the Peabody Museum, two per week for six weeks. Each week, one camp is open to entering 1st – 3rd graders, and the other is open to entering 4th – 7th graders, and each camp program will have between 25 and 40 children. Each week is usually tied to a specific field or theme, including animals, rocks & minerals, human cultures, space & astronomy, etc. Many of these camps are nature-based, and include field trips to local natural areas for hiking, nature observation, supervised collecting, and other low-impact activities. All of the programs tap into the incredible collections of the Museum, bringing children behind-the-scenes to see the storage areas and in some cases bringing objects and specimens into the summer camp rooms for close inspection or special activities. Activities take place within rooms at the Peabody and in neighboring academic buildings. Some activities and lessons will take place entirely within the exhibit galleries to make use of the primary source objects and specimens on display, giving many students a first glimpse at things they may have only seen in photographs. Other programs make use of classroom space for hands-on activities that require tables, special materials or a particular ambience.

The President's Public Service Fellow will:

- Receive training in content and effective delivery of environmental education programs to school-age children.
- During the month of June, develop, test, and prepare materials and supplies for activities for summer camps.
- Develop new natural history-based lessons (activities, games, hands-on programs) for the summer camps and guide other counselors in developing and leading activities.
- Serve as a lead educator in the Peabody Museum's summer camps during the months of July and August.

In addition to a rewarding summer fellowship, Yale students stand to benefit from this experience in very tangible ways. The education, curriculum/activity development, and group management skills will be immensely useful to students pursuing a career in education at any level. In addition, there is a growing emphasis placed on scientists' ability to communicate with the public, so this internship will be useful to science students even if they do not pursue a career in informal or formal science education.

- Specific skills/experience required for the project (*Please list*):

1. Exceptional interpersonal and presentation skills.
 2. Proven ability to take initiative, work independently and as part of a team. Self-motivated and able to jumpstart programs.
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3. Excellent writing and oral communication skills.
 4. Ability to handle diverse, simultaneous tasks.
 5. Preferred: experience in developing and implementing creative and innovative educational programs, including curricula and other resource materials.
- Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, please include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

No additional requirements necessary.

- 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.

The Yale Peabody Museum has a long history working with Yale students in both paid and unpaid capacities. Internships in the collections take place every summer based on the needs and availability of the collections staff. Yale students regularly serve as volunteers for the Museum's public events and programs. Over the past decade, a large number of Yale students have been employed by the Museum in various areas, including our Birthday Party program, the Discovery Room (a permanent, highly interactive part of the Museum), the Museum Store, and in a few other offices doing special projects. Students have been instrumental in creating some of our environmental education programs over the last three years. The Peabody hosted Courture Fellows during the summers of 2012, 2014 and 2016 – these fellows worked with the summer camp program in a similar role to that described above.
