

Marshall School

MARSHALL SCHOOL *OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES* PATHWAY PROGRAM: Nature-based Learning Practitioner

Inspiring lifelong learners to embrace challenge and create positive change.

Marshall School provides learning experiences that connect students to their interests and abilities, while offering hands-on experiences that prepare them to step to be leaders. Marshall School's Outdoor Experiences Pathway Program: Nature-based Learning Practitioner emphasizes connecting students with nature and the outdoors and building the skills necessary to work and lead in outdoor recreation and nature-based settings.

The Pathway Program allows participants to:

- Explore how to connect nature-based experiences to personal growth and learning
- Apply knowledge and skills to experiences leading and teaching others in an outdoor setting
- Participate in school and community-based teaching development in working with youth
- Build relationships with local nature-based leaders to gain an understanding of nature-based teaching beyond Marshall
- Reflect and share experiences in preparation for future pathways

Eligible Candidates

- Students will apply for the Nature-based Learning Practitioner program in the spring of their sophomore or junior year.
- Students must be in good academic standing to be eligible.

Enhanced Curricular Requirements

In addition to Marshall's course of study required of all students, students participating in the Outdoor Experiences Pathway Program:

1. The four-day Forest School teaching institute the August preceding their participation in the program.
2. Participate in the year long Forest School paid internship.
 - a. 2-4 hour daily internship, earning up to 4 academic credits
 - b. Assigned to work with a Forest School lead educator and Forest School crew
 - c. Responsibilities include
 - Support Forest School Lead Educators in facilitating learning, leading project-based activities, working closely with students one-on-one and in small groups, and supporting programming
 - Help develop and maintain a safe, creative, trusting, and resilient learning community

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- Exercise good judgment when proposing and supervising activities to ensure the safety of students
 - Support experiences for students to gain social-emotional skills, including self-awareness, social awareness, responsible and ethical decision making, self-management, leadership, and relationship skills
 - Strengthen relationships of belonging, openness, and vulnerability
 - Celebrate equity, diversity, and inclusion
 - Promote risk taking through play, experimentation, inquiry, and experiential learning
 - Follow safety protocols for daily operations at indoor and outdoor locations
 - Communicate with supervisors any safety concerns or incidents in a timely fashion
- d. Meet frequently with assigned FS lead educator for alignment and teaching practice
 - e. Meet weekly with FS Principal, either individually and with group of interns
3. Complete First Aid and CPR certifications
 4. Attend at least one [Duluth Nature Play Collaborative](#) meeting
 5. Attend the spring MnECO Minnesota Early Childhood Outdoors conference at UMD
 6. Reflect and document to share learning in a discernible way, which includes:
 - a. Resume detailing experience and skills for application to a nature-based teaching program
 - b. Portfolio of the year long experience
 - c. Forum discussion on nature-based teaching practices and internship experiences

Program Completion

Upon successful completion of the enhanced curricular requirements, participants will earn special recognition as an Outdoor Experiences scholar, both at graduation and on their official Marshall School transcript. Students participating in the program will have it designated on their transcript upon admission to the program.

Opportunities and Benefits

Students who participate in the Outdoor Experiences Pathway: Nature-based Teaching Practitioner become appealing candidates for nature-based childhood programs and outdoor youth development camps. Through the integrated opportunities for networking and learning about local nature-based schools, students will have access to potential work opportunities in nature-based education. The pathway's focus on leadership, accountability, professionalism, communication, problem solving and work ethic provide transferable skills to any future educational or career endeavor. Students who participate in this pathway also receive an hourly wage because of the level of work and capacity required of the student. This opportunity to earn a wage on campus may reduce the necessity for a student to work outside of school hours.