



Princeton
Internships in
Civic
Service

PICS 2010 Internship Description

Organization Name: The B-SAFE (Bishop's Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment) Program

Internship Location: c/o St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Boston MA

Required Dates: Yes No If yes, internship must start on: June 7, 2010 and end on August 13, 2010 or must include the period:

Housing Will Be Available to Intern: Yes No If yes, housing will be free: or housing will cost the student: housing is a possibility and would have a modest cost.

Expected working schedule for this internship:

Start Time: 8:30 am

End Time: 5:00 pm

Lunch break: (duration) no lunch breaks June 28-August 13 (specific time, if applicable)

Additional Information, if necessary: all work should be able to be done during work hours.
(Please indicate if any of the preparation work will take place outside of the regular work schedule)

Organization Description

Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.

The B-SAFE Program (Bishop's Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment Program) provides safe, enriching activities for hundreds of Boston youth and teens. The program strives to build a loving community; to broaden the horizons of our young people through academics, the arts, athletics, technology training and educational field trips; and to provide meaningful jobs for teens. The B-SAFE program is designed to respond to the needs and challenges of young people in neighborhoods in and around Boston. Our integrated youth programs have the mission of building a community where all people *feel safe, feel big, and feel connected*.

St. Stephen's, the sponsoring agency for the B-SAFE program, has been running successful youth programs in the South End of Boston 300 days a year for over ten years. Summer 2009 was our fourth year of expanding our work and model of youth work beyond St. Stephen's. For seven weeks during the summer of 2009, we served 540 youth and teens in seven sites around the city (St. Stephen's in the South End (double site); St. Augustine/St. Martin's in Lower Roxbury; St. Mark's on Columbia Road,

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Dorchester; Epiphany School in Codman Square, Dorchester; Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan; St. Luke's/San Lucas in Chelsea).

The B-SAFE Program solves problems. Children throughout the Boston-area feel unsafe for a variety of reasons, from instability at home to gunfire on the streets. There continue to be numerous shootings and stabbings in the Villa Victoria neighborhood that surrounds our church, as well as the other neighborhoods where our B-SAFE sites operate. Almost all of the young people in our programs have witnessed violence, know someone who has been a victim of violence, and/or have suffered violence themselves. Our youth struggle with the grief and anger which results from experiencing such loss and fears around safety. The B-SAFE Program provides children with physical safety, because we offer adult supervision, and emotional safety, as we have a no-tolerance stand on bullying and teasing. During the summer of 2009, we provided jobs to 89 teenagers through the Mayor's Boston Youth Fund and other funding. Research evidence and our own experience show that providing jobs to teens gives them a sense of purpose and is one of the most successful strategies for reducing violence. We expect to hire at least as many teens again in 2010.

There are not enough activities for children in the summer time, especially children from poor families in the heart of the city. Much of the recent spate of violence has taken place in and around playgrounds and parks, making it even less likely that parents and their children will feel comfortable in these recreational areas without structured, supervised activities. Without programs like the B-SAFE Program, most children spend the summer watching television, playing video games, or hanging around the streets unsupervised. Providing a safe environment, with educational activities and recreational activities for school age children and teens is an extremely important part of the solution to the problem of violence in the city of Boston. These activities and the B-SAFE Program also keep youth safe from obesity and other physical health issues through regular exercise and healthy food.

Many children with whom we work do not have a strong sense of self or pride in their abilities. Getting lost in the large schools and bureaucracy of the Boston Public Schools and systemic racism both play a role in this. Many of the youth who participate in our programs struggle to succeed in school. A recent report from the Nellie Mae Foundation presented an important study demonstrating that young people who participate in summer programs do better in school. It also showed that young people who participate in summer programs such as the B-SAFE Program which have an academic component do significantly better when they return to school. Our own anecdotal evidence shows this to be true, too. Teachers at the Epiphany School, one of our summer sites, reported that students who participated in B-SAFE @ Epiphany during past summers had noticeably improved academic skills when they returned to school in September. With the support of a PICS intern over the past two years, our academic programs have taken an evolutionary leap forward in terms of the quality of teaching of the specialists and the learning of students. More creative projects and more sharing of best practices between and among the specialists were made possible thanks to the work of the intern. During Summer 2009, our PICS volunteer not only supported teacher/specialists in Work (reading and writing) and Numbers Club (math) but also created afternoon long curricula that taught about various countries and cultures (Globetrotter Day), environmental issues (Green Day), and creative expression (Awesome Art Day).

The B-SAFE Program creates solutions. We work to help our community—children, parents, neighbors—feel connected to each other. By building loving, ongoing relationships with our children we offer opportunities for youth to feel connected to caring adults, teens and peers. Many of the youth participate in our programs year-round, giving us a unique and significant opportunity to change lives. We offer our kids praise, support and new skills, giving them a bigger sense of themselves. The children of the Villa, Lower Roxbury, Codman Square, Columbia Road, Chelsea and Mattapan need to feel safe, feel big and feel connected and the values we bring to the B-SAFE Program are part of how we meet that challenge.



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At each of the seven sites we will operate in 2010, we will run a program that has been tested and honed at St. Stephen's. It will include a four-part academic program: Word (reading and writing), Numbers Club (math), DEAR Time (Drop Everything and Read –30 minutes of daily free reading), and Technology classes. It is our hope to add a variety of science workshops and teaching this summer as well. The academic component of the program is designed to stop the learning slide that happens over the summer and help children get to grade level. At all of our sites, we also will offer art, recreational games, music, electives such as cooking and dance, and educational field trips. The children will be in small groups of fifteen, with two CITs, and an experienced lead counselor over the age of 21. Past experience shows this to be a good way to give the children the kind of individual attention they rarely get in a school classroom.

In Summer 2010 we will run seven sites for seven weeks (June 28-August 13). The first week will be a week of staff training, five weeks will be a day program from 8:30-4:00 Monday through Friday, and the seventh week will be a week of overnight camp in New Hampshire.

LEARN @ St. Stephen's, South End: 64 elementary school youth, 14 high school age CITs

YLC @ St. Stephen's, South End (B): 72 middle school youth; 14 high school age CITs

St. Augustine/St. Martin's, Lower Roxbury: 64 elementary school youth; 12 high school age CITs

Epiphany School, Codman Square: 60 elementary school youth; 25 middle school youth; 16 high school age CITs

St. Mark's, Columbia Road, Dorchester: 64 elementary school youth; 12 high school age CITs

Holy Spirit, Mattapan: 45 elementary school youth; 15 middle school youth; 12 high school age CITs

San Lucas/St. Luke's, Chelsea: 45 elementary school youth; 10 middle school youth; 16 high school age CITs

The summer will conclude with four days and three nights of camp for the youth ages 10 and up and staff of all the B-SAFE sites. This will be in New Hampshire at a camp run by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and will include many of the activities one might expect at overnight camp: swimming, boating, arts and crafts, sports, campfires, hikes, high adventure ropes course, and more.

One important thing to note is that while this program is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and is based out of several Episcopal churches, there is no required faith component or activities for youth or staff at any point during the summer. We focus on civic values of community, leadership and peace-making.

The next pages include a list of our accomplishments from B-SAFE 2009 and a photo page.

Internship Description

Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.

Intern Job Description: B-SAFE Academic Programs Intern

There will be four components to the work that a Princeton intern will do in this role:

** *Best Practices Analyzer*: One of the best things we do during staff training is to get instructors of the same subject together before the summer begins to talk about what they are going to teach and how they



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are going to structure their curriculum. Once the summer begins, however, it is difficult to gather teachers to talk due to the pace of the summer. The intern will be able to visit classrooms at all of the sites, collect observations, data, and anecdotes, and then systematically share information with instructors in other sites about what is working most effectively to achieve our goals. The goals of our curricula are to develop skills in reading, writing, math, and more through a focus on values (e.g., courage, patience, ubuntu) through experiential learning through creative teaching. Each group and each site work toward final projects which are presented at an end of summer celebration to which parents, family members and the community are invited. In addition, we also plan to demonstrate the links between what we are teaching in our classrooms with the required benchmarks at different age levels in the Boston Public School curricula, with a special focus on the TERC math curricula.

**** Specialty Day Coordinator:** A key new component of the B-SAFE Program, initiated by our PICS intern in 2009, was the creation of specialty days. These afternoons happened at the majority of our sites and taught new information to our youth through experiential, hands-on activities. For example, during Globetrotters Day the groups focused on learning about Brazil through capoeira and Haiti through study of heroes of history in Haiti and practicing Creole language phrases. During Green Day, students created art out of recycled materials and learned about the impact of climate change on specific species of animals in different parts of the world. We would like to continue and expand these specialty days, adding Mad Science days and a day that teaches local Boston history in ways that are relevant and meaningful to our youth. The PICS intern would have primary responsibility for planning and coordinating these days, including bringing in experts and doing direct teaching.

**** Substitute Teacher:** Due to illness and family issues, we have found through experience that instructors are occasionally absent. Teachers had lesson plans that were prepared and lead counselors did their best to teach the activities. It would be a significant contribution to the continuity and strength of the program to have an intern who was available to serve as a substitute teacher. Our PICS intern stepped in and taught classes at several of our sites this past summer with much success and learning, both for the students and for him as a teacher.

**** Materials and Supplies Acquirer:** At the beginning of the summer and throughout the weeks of the B-SAFE program, the intern would be assisting teachers in acquiring the materials needed to teach their classes. Again, this is of particular importance to the Numbers Club classes since the TERC curriculum uses many manipulatives and games that can be easily purchased or simply created with modest effort. DEAR time works best when there are books available in a variety of subjects and reading levels. This past summer, our PICS intern helped coordinate the donation of thousands of books from our suburban partner churches to build and expand libraries at four of our sites.

In all these responsibilities, the intern would have direct contact and interactions with the teachers as well as with students of all ages in all the sites. This internship would be an excellent one for students interested in education, early childhood development, or urban youth work.

Intern Qualifications

Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.

There are three sets of qualities that would make a Princeton student the right person for this internship:



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PERSONAL QUALITIES: A “can-do” attitude, flexibility, sense of humor, and grace under pressure are essential characteristics for doing this job well. B-SAFE is a well-established program with experimental components. An intern will need creativity and high energy to keep up with the incredibly fast pace of the summer. An entrepreneurial spirit will also be needed to figure out the best way to help create systems to continue our effort to standardize the kind of teaching and education happening in our multiple sites.

EDUCATIONAL QUALITIES: While not required, this position would be a great fit for a student who is studying to be a teacher, thinking about pursuing a career in education, or who is interested in community organizing in an urban setting. The intern will get first-hand experience in dealing with issues facing urban public school systems and witness some of the seemingly intractable problems facing America’s city schools as systemic racism, violence, teaching that is geared to standardized tests (and does not reward creativity from teachers or students), limited resources for books and materials, retaining high quality teachers, inadequate facilities, and more. Many of our students speak English as a second language. The B-SAFE program is committed to offering solutions to these problems and creating a learning environment that is fun, caring, and treats each student as an individual.

EXPERIENCE: There are several types of experiences that would give an intern some advantages: having taught or tutored in an urban public school or afterschool program, having been a student in an urban public school, having worked at a camp serving urban youth, having worked in a non-profit organization. While not required, these types of experiences would give an intern some of the skills necessary to succeed in the B-SAFE Program as the academic coordinator. Speaking Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, or Haitian Creole would be an extra plus.



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The B-SAFE Program (Bishop's Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment Program) Accomplishments 2009

- Served 530 youth in 7 sites for 7 weeks (1 week training, 5 weeks full day program in city, 1 week overnight camp)
 - St. Stephen's LEARN, South End (61 elementary)
 - St. Stephen's YLC, South End (73 middle schoolers)
 - St. Augustine/St. Martin, Lower Roxbury (62 elementary)
 - St. Mark's, Dorchester (59 elementary)
 - Epiphany School, Codman Square, Dorchester (48 elementary, 26 middle schoolers)
 - Holy Spirit, Mattapan (48 elementary; 15 middle schoolers)
 - St. Luke's/San Lucas, Chelsea (45 elementary)
 - 89 teen staff worked at these sites (15-17 years old)
 - 16 young adults worked at these sites (18-21 years old)
- 99,400 kid hours of programming offered
- 26,500 healthy meals served; 13,250 snacks served
- 40 suburban and urban parishes worked as partners with the program, selecting a week at a particular site to provide lunches for all staff and participants, read with youth during DEAR Time, and to plan and sponsor full day field trips on Fridays. 10 additional parishes offered financial support. More than 850 volunteers participated in the B-SAFE Program during 2009.
- B-SAFE's four day staff training for over 150 adults and teen staff included Red Cross First Aid training for all, along with team building, training on our model of encouraging positive choices by youth, and more.
- LEARN and YLC Programs at all sites included six hours of academic time a week: 2 hours of Word (reading and writing), 2 hours of Numbers Club (TERC based math activities), 2 hours of DEAR Time (30 min daily to Drop Everything And Read). Some of our sites began to add science activities, experiments, and workshops.
- LEARN Program also included weekly enrichment activities including art, technology (at 6 out of 7 sites), recreation, dance, music, crafts, and other electives.
- YLC Program included the above as well as leadership activities and a special focus on environmental concerns
- LEARN and YLC took at least 3 field trips weekly (2 half-day and 1 full day) to museums and local parks, including new trips to Peabody Essex Museum, Harvard Art Museum, and Fuller Craft Museum.
- Full day field trips included trips to Ecotarium, Houghton's Pond, Farrington Memorial, Crane's Beach, Rockport, Revere Beach, several local farms, and more.
- Our teen program was outrageously successful!
 - 88 out of 89 teens hired completed the summer.
 - Teens worked 25 hours a week and were paid \$8.00 hour.
 - 70 teens were hired through Boston Youth Fund; 9 by Chelsea Collaborative, the remainder were paid through B-SAFE directly.
 - In addition to weekly group supervision meetings, teens also engaged in weekly enrichment activities, including team building; college workshops and science workshops at MIT; including a mock trial; healthy relationship workshop with Planned Parenthood; and training helping youth to resolve conflicts non-violently.
 - Additional activities included our third annual mid-summer basketball tournament (each site fielded a team; more than 80% of teens participated!) and an end of summer beach day.
- Young Adults: each site had a Site Assistant, a position of increased responsibilities and leadership for young adults (18-21 years old) who had graduated from The S²POT program and who were no longer eligible for a teen position. Four of our recreation specialists were young adults who received special training in leading non-competitive games and activities to build teamwork.
- Overnight at BCH: 130 youth and teens and 20 adults spent 4 days and 3 nights at the Barbara C. Harris Camp (our 7th week) engaging in all sorts of camp activities, including sports, swimming, arts, yoga, songs, campfires, acting, Water Olympics, hikes, ropes course, rock climbing, and more.



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