



## **2023 Summer Residency Program**

### **Helena, MT and Brooklyn, NY**

We are currently accepting applications for the 2023 Summer Residency Program at Cottonwood! Cottonwood will select 4-6 excellent applicants for these positions.

Cottonwood's Resident Facilitator position is our way of keeping the door open to the wonder and diversity of learning that the world contains. Each year, people from different creative and open-minded disciplines engage in an active learning exchange with the Cottonwood community in either of our primary locations: Brooklyn, New York, or Helena, Montana. Resident Facilitators operate as guides and supports of the Cottonwood learning programs and have the opportunity to develop their own personal practice using our facilities. Their period of stay is an opportunity to cultivate and offer elements of their own practice in the Cottonwood space as well as enjoy the cultural and environmental aspects of the location. The position may be paid and offered housing as well as support in exploring the location and developing their work. The expectations of Resident Facilitators vary depending on the applicant and Cottonwood's availability.

Residents select a 3, 6, or 9 week placement in either or both of our locations : Helena, Montana and Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York.

### **ABOUT SUMMER RESIDENTS**

Summer residents will work alongside full-time staff to run Cottonwood's summer programming. Each resident's unique set of skills and interests will help to inform the ways they offer and engage with each week and ultimately will strengthen and diversify all that Cottonwood offers. So...bring yourself. We want to hear about you, what you love to do, what you don't know anything about yet, and what you are most excited to share with others.

## **COMPENSATION**

- Weekly compensation to all US residents.
- Shared housing will be provided to all residents.  
(MT Value: \$600 - \$1200, NY Value: \$1500 - \$3000)
- International applicants are encouraged to apply.
- Professional Mentorship
- Community Networking

## **BENEFITS OF BEING A RESIDENT**

- Opportunities for development will include observing, learning, and engaging as an educational facilitator and assisting behind the scenes with administrative staff to gain skills for organizing and executing a summer youth educational program.
- After-hours access to our beautiful spaces. We invite you to use the Center after hours as your playground. Host a game night, screen films, bake a cake, play music...
- Learn about agile tools and our approach. We consider the tools and practices we use at Cottonwood as tools for life, and we can't wait to share them with you!
- Gain knowledge about operating and maintaining a learning center, community building, non-profit management and other professional development.
- Get to be creative, explore what you love, and approach every day as an adventure all while on the job.
- Fun, exciting, and social, work environment and access to a rich new community where connections will extend well beyond the summer.

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

- Excellent communicator
- Detail-oriented
- Demonstrates strong organizational skills
- Is an agent of play
- Curious with a desire to learn
- Enjoys working with young people
- Previous work with young people is preferred

## **WHAT IS COTTONWOOD?**

**Play hard, with intention!**

Cottonwood is a space of curiosity, play, trust, respect, equity, and autonomy. We celebrate the individuality of everyone's learning journey by creating a mixed-age space with the greater mission to build a community through self-directed learning. We do this through our agile after-school program, adult and organizational programming, community center events, mission-related space rental, and summer camps. We serve and connect two communities: Helena, MT, and Brooklyn, NY.

We strive to create an environment that is positive and attentive to the whole human. By keeping our class size small, we work to empower individual learners to approach their life with agency and broaden their horizons to identify possibilities based on their unique interests and strengths. Learners and staff alike come to Cottonwood because they seek a place where they can thrive.

Learning happens everywhere! We intentionally located our educational spaces in places where our cultural and natural landscapes are as much a part of our classroom as the interior spaces of our buildings. As a result, Cottonwood learners can be found interacting with their community every day and helping to create meaningful engagement and connections.

## **FACILITATOR EXPECTATIONS**

### **In Cottonwood Space**

Hold space: Act as a model, space-holder, and mentor to learners in a self-directed learning environment and in intentional culture creation. Facilitators need to be grounded in the perspective of trusting children and committed to fostering curiosity and individual empowerment. Facilitators may be asked to lead check-ins, start and end-of-day reflections, and mediation between learners.

Assist and support activities: Observe and assist during full-day programming with other facilitators.

Collaborate: Actively co-create and engage with staff and learners to develop tools and practices that support positive culture creation based on trust, communication, and the practical needs of learners.

Communicate: Have reliable, honest, and open communication with staff, learners, and parents.

Co-ordinate and chaperone: Help in planning and coordinating field trips and/or daily adventures.

Maintain the space: Help in preparing the space for learners and oversee that it is being taken care of by all.

Be prepared and resourceful: Complete orientation training prior to your arrival. Be open and flexible to any shifts that may arise in your time here.

### **Beyond the Learning Space**

Communicate reminders and updates on Cottonwood activities.

Maintain consistent documentation of the program via photos, videos, etc. and communicate occasionally with parents and staff.

**To learn more about Cottonwood NYC visit : [cottonwoodnyc.org/education](https://cottonwoodnyc.org/education)**

**To learn more and apply for this position visit: [cottonwoodnyc.org/employment](https://cottonwoodnyc.org/employment)**