

**Asombro Institute for Science Education
Undergraduate Internship in Science Education and Outreach
Fall 2026 Semester**

Summary of Internship

The nonprofit Asombro Institute for Science Education hires one undergraduate intern each semester. We are currently hiring for the Fall 2026 semester. The internship is open to current, full-time college students with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The intern will be paid \$15 per hour and will work eight hours per week for 15 weeks of the semester. There is some flexibility in the schedule based on the intern's class schedule, although the intern will need to be available for one full weekday or two weekday mornings to participate in field trips and school visits. During the internship, the successful candidate will work with Asombro's staff to assist with the development and delivery of Asombro's science education lessons to K-12 students in Las Cruces and surrounding areas. The intern will gain skills for communicating place-based science in local schools while assisting with other duties in a busy nonprofit organization.

About Asombro

"Asombro" is the Spanish word for "wonder," which is exactly what the Asombro Institute's programs bring to the thousands of children and adults who participate each year. The Asombro Institute for Science Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing natural science literacy through engaging, place-based education. To achieve this mission, we serve more than 19,000 K-12 students and 1,500 adults in southern New Mexico with hands-on, standards-aligned science education programs each year. Programs focus on desert ecology and take place in classrooms, schoolyards, and at Asombro's outdoor classroom, the 935-acre Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Asombro works with scientists from NMSU, the USDA's Jornada Experimental Range, and other institutions associated with the Jornada Basin Long-Term Ecological Research Program to bring the latest science discoveries and data directly to students.

Asombro Staff:

- Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Ph.D. – Executive Director
- Gabriela Franco – Education Director
- Natalie Wells – Program Leader
- LuAnn Kilday – Program Leader
- William Lukefahr – Nature Park Manager (part-time)
- Bonnie Jean Knighton – Science Educator
- Tara Russell – Science Educator

Contact Information:

Office location – 401 E. College Drive, Las Cruces (just west of New Mexico State University)

Mailing address – PO Box 891, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Website – <https://asombro.org>

Phone – 575-524-3334

What You Can Expect

No day will ever be the same in this internship! Asombro will work to ensure interns have exposure to a variety of tasks and training related to science education and outreach. On some days, you will accompany Asombro staff into local classrooms to serve as the helper, which could include handing out materials, answering students' questions, and working with small groups. Other days might find you

assisting with Asombro-hosted field trips to our outdoor classroom, the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. On other days, you'll be in the Asombro office near the NMSU campus, helping prepare materials for upcoming lessons, meeting with staff to plan upcoming events, and participating in general office duties in support of Asombro's mission.

Upon selection, the intern will work with Asombro staff members to create a set weekly schedule for eight hours per week. We expect most hours will be worked during the K-12 school hours of approximately 8:00 – 4:00, but some flexibility to accommodate the intern's class schedule is possible. This is an onsite position in Las Cruces; remote working is not possible.

Compensation is \$15 per hour for eight hours per week throughout the semester. You will be a temporary Asombro employee (not an independent contractor), so pay is subject to normal mandatory deductions. Interns earn paid sick leave in accordance with the New Mexico Healthy Workplaces Act.

As the internship host, Asombro will provide the following:

- A safe, supportive work environment
- Training and mentoring
- Guidance, encouragement, and constructive criticism

Qualifications

The successful candidate has an interest in learning how to communicate science to K-12 students through hands-on lessons aligned with educational standards. Other requirements include:

- Status as a current, full-time undergraduate student (any major) with GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently on assigned tasks when needed
- Well organized and self-motivated, in both independent and team environments
- Excitement to find ways to communicate science concepts to English learners
- Proficient in using Microsoft Office
- Ability to get to and from the Asombro office at 401 E. College (just west of the main NMSU campus in Las Cruces). Travel to local classrooms or on field trips will be done in an Asombro vehicle, so personal vehicles are not required.
- Willingness to follow any protocols required by the undergraduate's college/university for any courses for which the intern may also be receiving credits for the internship
- Must pass a background check, which will be paid for by Asombro
- Must be available to work either one full weekday or two weekday mornings each week, for a total of 8 hours per week

When and How to Apply

Applications are due **by 5 PM on Monday, April 27, 2026**. To apply, please submit:

- 1) A cover letter that addresses (a) how you can contribute to Asombro's mission of increasing natural science literacy and (b) how this internship will help you academically and professionally.
- 2) Your resume
- 3) Unofficial college transcript
- 4) Your current class schedule for Fall 2026 (if available). If you have not yet registered for classes, please discuss your expected schedule in your cover letter.

Combine the cover letter and resume into a single Word or PDF document. Transcript may be a separate file. Email the application to luann@asombro.org.