**Fall 2025 Riverfront Restoration Project**

**ENVS 429 Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) Application**

 Due Monday, May 5th, 9:00 a.m.

**Project Description**

Restoring degraded riparian vegetation has many important benefits including filtering pollutions, providing shade for cooler water temperatures, reducing erosion, slowing flood waters, and providing important wildlife habitat. In collaboration with the UO Office of Sustainability and Whitewater Ranch, this team will contribute to the health of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers by getting involved in all stages of the adaptive restoration process: planning, site preparation, planting, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, if participating students are interested in public engagement, students may choose to implement projects related to organizing volunteer work parties, researching and designing interpretive materials, creating social media campaigns, planning functional art or doing other priorities identified in the UO Willamette River Natural Area Action Plan. This is a one-term ELP project that will meet 4-6pm on Mondays and 9am-5pm on Fridays.

**Eligibility**

* Open to ENVS and ESCI majors with at least junior standing and a 2.6 GPA.
* If there are more applications than spaces available, priority will be given to seniors who meet one of the following:
	+ Are graduating Fall 2025 or Winter 2026
	+ Are graduating Spring 2026 but will be studying abroad or have another conflict with either the Winter or Spring 2026 ELP courses
	+ Are graduating Spring 2026 and need PHYS 203 to graduate (which is an irreconcilable conflict with the Spring ENVS 429 class)
* We warmly encourage students from diverse identities and backgrounds to apply. We believe that varied perspectives and lived experiences foster creative, dynamic and effective teams.

**Directions**

* Treat this application as you would a job application: be thorough and proofread.
* Save your application as a Word (.docx) or PDF file. I cannot accept .pages files.
* E-mail your application and resume to Peg Boulay (*boulay [at] uoregon.edu*). I will not accept hand-written applications or hard copies. Thanks!

***Why is there an application and interview for ELP?***

*ELP emphasizes collaborative leadership to accomplish shared objectives in a team setting. This application is less about being a competitive process than it is ensuring that 1) our hands-on work with community partners is a good fit for you and your goals, and 2) you understand the schedule, structure and logistics of our projects since ELP is different from other courses. Also, since we also focus on professional development, our application and interview allow you to practice your career readiness skills (and gain feedback) in a low-stakes setting before you graduate and enter the job market.*

**Step 1. Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Student ID |  |
| Major |  |
| Year (Jr/Sr) |  |
| GPA |  |
| UO email address |  |
| Gmail address |  |

**Step 2. Application Questions**

*Note: your answers should be concise – ideally 3-4 sentences – yet detailed enough to fully answer the question.*

1. **If there are more applications than space available, is there a reason why you should have priority consideration for this project** **based on the criteria listed under “Eligibility?” Please explain.**
2. **Why do you want to be a part of this team? In other words, what are your motivations and expectations, and do you have any specific learning goals?**
3. **What knowledge, skills, and/or experience would you bring to the team?**
4. **Please describe any coursework you have taken that is relevant to the project you are applying to, making special reference to specific knowledge you’ve gained that will be valuable to the team.**
5. **Please describe any volunteer work, internships, research, hobbies, or paid work that you have completed that is relevant to the project you are applying for.**
6. **ELP emphasizes team-based collaboration and communication skills.**

**A. First, describe your general experience working in team settings. What kind of teams have you worked with (i.e., team size, composition and purpose)? Were your overall experiences positive or negative? Why?**

**B. Second, describe a specific example of how you worked in a team setting to complete a task or project. What was your role and how did your team work together? (e.g., What processes or relationships worked well? What processes or relationships could have been improved?).**

**Step 3. Writing Sample**

Choose any ecological topic or issue (e.g., an animal’s behavior, a process such as flooding, a relationship such as predator-prey, a classification such as a type of soil, a conservation issue such as habitat loss, the ecological basis for habitat restoration, etc.). In **ONE** paragraph, describe the topic or issue in scientific terms. Alternatively, if you are interested in public engagement activities, define your audience and describe your topic in a way that your audience would find engaging and informative. Either way, your description should be clear, concise, interesting and based on good scientific information. You are welcome to use an example of your writing from a previous class!