Organization Name: Kids4Peace - Atlanta

Address:
Work will take place in various locations around Atlanta

Mailing Address (if different):
P.O. Box 373
Decatur, Georgia 30031-0373

Phone: 404.915.4924

Web site: [www.k4p.org/atlanta](http://www.k4p.org/atlanta)

Internship Supervisor:
Loren Williams, Board President
lorenk4p@gmail.com

Organization’s Mission Statement:

Kids4Peace is a global youth movement, committed to developing a community of interfaith leaders, equipped with the knowledge, skills and relationships to build – together – a new culture of peace. We are dedicated to encouraging children of different cultures and faith traditions to explore their differences and similarities and to learn understanding, tolerance and respect, while fostering sustainable friendships across the lines of conflict.

Summary of organization’s primary programs and services:

Young people growing up today in the midst of the Mideast conflict accept hatred, guns, violence, checkpoints and killings, not only as normal – but at the inevitable consequence of their religion’s history. Kids4Peace changes this. We change hearts and minds of youth who
are growing up in the middle, and the most significant place, of this conflict, Jerusalem.

The centerpiece of Kids4Peace’s interfaith and peace-making programs is a summer camp for middle-school aged kids. Each year, we start in Jerusalem and its environs with a selected group of 11 and 12 year olds, most of whose families have heard of Kids4Peace through friends or classmates, and who are willing to commit to a long and sometimes scary journey. These kids, boys and girls, are Muslims, Jews and Christians, always in equal numbers. They begin a series of meetings with each other and with Kids4Peace teachers and facilitators, getting to know each other and building community. At the same time, in five cities in the US, Kids4Peace is recruiting an equal number of US middle-schoolers, also from Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities. These kids and their families also meet together to get to know each other and to prepare for an intensive two-week summer camp program.

There are five camps in the US, in Vermont, Boston, Western NC, Atlanta and Houston. For each, 12 kids fly from Jerusalem, along with a camp leader and three faith advisors, one from each religion. They are welcomed by twelve US kids, and a staff trained in interfaith dialog and conflict resolution. They spend two weeks in a safe and fun environment, talking, playing, praying and being kids. As they develop close relationships with each other, they find themselves in part of a community. They learn what their faith traditions share, both in history and in teachings about compassion and peace. And when they return to their families, they bring their own experience and a new set of friends and partners in peace-making.

Over the next three or four years, these kids participate in a ‘Continuation’ program. They meet monthly, to strengthen their relationship and nurture the lessons learned at the camp. They visit each other’s homes for religious holidays, volunteer together, and take weekend trips for intensive dialog and team-building. When the kids reach the age of 15 or 16, they are eligible to participate in a ‘Leadership’ camp. This camp, held in Brattleboro, VT, provides deep and intensive training in conflict resolution, interfaith education and leadership skills. The camp features studies with civic, diplomatic and religious leaders from both the US and the Middle East. Finally, there
are opportunities for 17-20 year old alumni to become Kids4Peace staff members, serving as leaders at the summer camp program, sharing their experience and enthusiasm with another group of middle-schoolers.

Kids4Peace is founded on the principle that recognition of the religious dimensions of the conflict is essential to the progress of peace in the Middle East. The traditions, teachings, rituals and metaphors of the three Abrahamic faiths have many foundations of peacemaking, and those foundations may resonate in ways that no other peace process will. We strive to help the kids recognize those foundations in their own and in the other two faith traditions, and use them to build their own confidence and competence in dialog – which can replace assumptions of conflict and violence. Since 2002, over 600 children have come through our programs, and just now, the older ones are starting to participate in civic life both in the US and Jerusalem.

**Intern’s title:**
Intern

**Number of interns requested by this organization?**
One

**Internship project/job description:**
There are two somewhat different roles that we would like the intern to play. The first is providing general administrative and marketing assistance to our volunteers; the second is to assist the camp director and staff in preparation for, and the provision of, the summer camp program (July 2 – July 16) in a variety of ways.

Tasks in the first role may include assisting in layout and editing of our newsletter, maintenance of our database, assembling and sending out direct mail and other communications. As we do not have permanent offices, this work will be performed either at the intern’s home or at one of our local sponsoring churches. Tasks in the second role may include inventorying, packing and purchasing of supplies for camp, preparation of information packets for campers’ parents, assisting in activities with the campers during the camp, assisting in preparing and distributing post-camp surveys. The camp program
takes place at Camp Mikell, an Episcopal camp and conference center in Toccoa, GA and on the campus of Emory University.

Qualifications:
Initiative, enthusiasm for middle-school aged kids, an interest in interfaith dialog, and a passion for making the world a more peaceful place. Upperclass undergraduate student or graduate student.

Kids4Peace-Atlanta does not have any paid staff, relying on board members and volunteers to fundraise and deliver our program. As a result, the successful candidate will not have close day-to-day supervision; so we need someone that is a self-starter, can make decisions on their own and can be counted on to follow through on assignments.

Our summer camp program is an intense two weeks and revolves around middle schoolers. It is important for a candidate to want to be around this age children and to enjoy engaging with them where they are.

A central tenet of Kids4Peace is that we foster learning about each other’s faith and practices. We have found that those who enjoy the work that we do practice their own faith and interested learning more about the intersections amongst the three Abrahamic faiths.

Although not a requirement, we would be especially keen to meet with Muslim or Jewish candidates, and candidates fluent in Hebrew and/or Arabic.

Other Requirements:
Candidates will be required to agree to a background check and to complete a half-day course “Safeguarding God’s Children.”

Will the internship require that the student have a car?
Yes

Is placement site accessible by public transit or other transportation options?
The work takes place in a variety of sites, some of which are accessible, but others are not.