

2007 Summer Internship Pine Mountain Settlement School Pine Mountain, Kentucky

Scope of project: Survey current operation and develop an outline which includes ways to reduce energy consumption

Pine Mountain Settlement School (<http://www.pinemountainsettlementschool.com>) has a 93-year history of education and service to the communities of southeastern Kentucky and beyond. Pine Mountain is a National Historic Landmark and home to the 348-acre James E. Bickford State Nature Preserve. The School owns 800 acres on the north side of Pine Mountain in Harlan County.

In its early years, Pine Mountain was nearly a self-sufficient operation with a fully functioning farm, woodworking shop, print shop, and weaving and sewing rooms. Since 1972, the School has been an environmental education center using the surrounding forested mountains, streams and fields as outdoor classrooms. About 3,500 students take classes at Pine Mountain during a typical year.

In 2002, the School started classes in historic preservation with its historic buildings made of native materials as the hands-on projects. The School also offers classes in crafts and arts.

Pine Mountain has several buildings that were constructed from 1913 to 1940. At present, none of the buildings are heated or cooled with renewable energy sources. The school also has several acres of farm land; the gardens supply some of the food served in the dining hall.

Pine Mountain Settlement School would like to:

1. Reduce its use of fossil fuels and move toward sustainable energy sources, particularly solar power and geothermal systems
2. Make better use of farm lands to grow more food for the School's use, and possibly for the local community.
3. Create models for projects that homeowners can use that incorporate resource-saving features.

An internship at Pine Mountain offers a special opportunity to help with initial efforts to move toward a more sustainable way of living. The School is surrounded by coal mines, gas wells and timbering operations. A model program at the School could make a bold statement about alternatives to these extractive industries.

An internship would include housing, some meals, and a small stipend. For more information, please contact Nancy Adams, Executive Director, at (606) 558-3571 or send e-mail to director@pinemountainsettlementschool.com. For initial questions on the internship,

contact Richard Olson, SENS Program, Berea College, Berea, KY.,
richard_olson@berea.edu or (859) 985-3593.