Internship Title: Star Island Sustainability Intern

Internship Site: Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH

This is a residential position on Star Island. Star Island is part of the Isles of Shoals, a small group of islands just off the coast of Maine and New Hampshire. The island is home to a seasonal conference center serving nearly 300 guests a week and operated by just over 100 staff members. Star Island is a great place to be a part of a dynamic community, experience island living, and enjoy a unique natural environment.

Sustainability on Star Island

The Green Gosport Initiative (GGI) is Star Island’s sustainability program. The GGI focuses on supporting the concepts of reduce, reuse, recycle across the island, but also describes the general approach to island energy, water, food, and waste systems.

Here are some highlights: After installing the largest off-grid solar array in New England, 2015 marked the first season in Star Island’s transition to solar. This array met 45.3% of island power demand for the year, and reduced diesel usage by approximately 5,500 gallons. Since 2012 the island has reduced diesel usage by 70%, both through conversion to solar and through efficiency projects (updating or replacing equipment, changing practices). Island living highlights the importance of resource conservation/use and waste management.

Fresh water on island is very limited, and potable water is provided through reverse osmosis, rainwater filtration, and delivery of water by boat. The island is in the process of designing and receiving approval for a wastewater treatment facility upgrade, which will include water reuse in toilets. During the 2015 season Star re-designed a resource recovery center, the operations hub for managing food waste (all food waste is composted), on-island resource recovery (glass crushing and cardboard shredding), and recycling. For more information about Star Island see [http://starisland.org/](http://starisland.org/). For more information about Star Island sustainability see [http://starisland.org/island/green/](http://starisland.org/island/green/).

Description:

An island offers a unique study in sustainability. On Star Island, resource limitations throughout the island’s history have fostered an environment of creative resource use, conservation, and systems-thinking. As an integral member of the Environmental Services
team, the Sustainability Intern will learn about and be involved in the day-to-day operation of the island’s water, wastewater, compost, waste management, energy, and food systems. The Sustainability Intern will also work to support Star Island’s sustainability initiative (the Green Gosport Initiative) by engaging and educating staff and guests about environmental issues on-island and in the broader world in order to increase awareness, inspire behavior change, foster a sense of environmental responsibility, and promote the culture of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

This will be accomplished by:

Leading behind-the-scenes sustainability walks highlighting island systems and sustainable practices.

Organizing environmental education activities for children’s groups and families.

Tracking parameters such as daily water use, power usage, food waste, and produce harvested then communicating results through an online environmental “dashboard”

Developing outreach materials, particularly signs

Working with other interns and staff to identify and implement projects related to a long-term island energy plan, climate change, a long-term island adaptation (related to climate change) plan, waste management/zero-waste, or water conservation.

 Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:  Proven communication skills and ability to speak publicly in group settings; Ability to both work independently with limited supervision and work collaboratively in group settings; Safe, cooperative, respectful individuals who will thrive in the close working and living quarters of Star Island’s remote setting.

*Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.*

 Supervision:  Star Island Environmental Services Manager and Compost/Garden Coordinator.

 Start and End Dates:  

Mid-May – Mid-August, 2017 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

 Total Hours:  36-42 hours/week, 12-weeks

 Compensation:  $3,250 for 12-week period. Room and board is provided, including all meals, and dormitory-style accommodations in staff quarters.
**How to apply:** Follow step by step application instructions which are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. This will include logging into the CEMS-RSENR Internship, Co-Op, Research System and submitting the following (as pdfs whenever possible) by midnight, Sunday, January 29th 2017:

a. Resume
b. Cover Letter - You should upload and submit unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying
c. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, please provide list of the positions in rank order.
d. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference (this could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc.)
e. Transcript – Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload.
f. A recommendation form, completed by a faculty member or teaching assistant, will also need to be submitted on your behalf. Please send this link to the faculty member/teaching assistant when you ask if they are willing to complete the recommendation form for you. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially uploaded to your application(s).