Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
University of Vermont
Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2017

Internship Title: Vermont Center for Ecostudies Mountains and Lakes Field Biology Internship

Internship Site: Based out of our Norwich and Craftsbury, VT offices, with field sites across Vermont and in the mountains of NH (and possibly ME). The intern will need to secure housing for the period of the internship local to Norwich (which can easily be done through sublet of student housing at nearby Dartmouth College.)

Description: The position will involve immersion in many aspects of VCE’s diverse wildlife research and monitoring projects, including (but not limited to) the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, Mountain Birdwatch, long-term bird banding on the Mt. Mansfield ridgeline, and studies of vernal pool amphibian ecology. Responsibilities will vary from day to day and week to week, but will include field work and office-based tasks such as error-checking and digitization of data. Field work for the Mountain Birdwatch project will include extensive backcountry hiking and leave-no-trace camping (1 or 2 nights at a time), navigating by GPS in pre-dawn hours to conduct surveys of high elevation songbirds. Field work for the Loon Conservation project will include transporting a kayak or canoe on the intern’s vehicle and using it on remote lakes and ponds to monitor loon activity, search for nests, and deploy and recover nest warning signs and nesting platforms. The loon work will also involve spontaneous conversations with residents and recreationists at loon lakes, to both gather their observations and share information and educational materials as opportunity presents. Data validation is office work to error check citizen scientists’ data from Mountain Birdwatch routes. Attention to detail is essential for data validation tasks.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Qualifications include some formal education in wildlife biology, ecology, or a closely related field. Also required is a willingness to work unpredictable hours in demanding field conditions, to physically exert oneself, to work both independently and in a close-knit team situation, to be flexible in scheduling activities, and to show an abundance of good-natured humor. Applicants should be prepared to travel independently around Vermont and occasionally to surrounding states, to conduct loon surveys via kayak (training will be provided), and to conduct hiking-based surveys of mountain birds. Ability to work in variable weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 20 pounds in a backpack, and otherwise maintain good physical condition are essential. Willingness to camp in remote areas and ability to use a GPS for navigation in the dark to survey locations are also important. Prior experience conducting biological field work, particularly involving identification of birds by sight and sound, is preferred, but not required. Intern must have a pair of binoculars and a reliable vehicle that can transport a kayak.

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

Supervision: Mountain Birdwatch and Loon Conservation project directors

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – early-August, 2017 (exact start/end dates are negotiable), with at least one week in late May, all of June, and at least 1 week in August. (The remainder of the time to be distributed through July and early August).

Total Hours: 32-40 hours/week, 10-12 weeks – Total of 400 hours

Compensation: $12.50/hour. Mileage reimbursement at the federally approved rate. This is a temporary position and not benefits-eligible.
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).