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

**Internship Title:** Trail Finder and GIS Intern

**Internship Site:** National Life/Upper Valley Trails Alliance

**Description:**

Easy access to centralized information is commonly cited as a barrier for people wanting to be more active outdoors.

The Online Trail Mapping intern will work with VTFPR, CCGIS, UVTA its partners, and local trail managers and land owners to develop new trail postings that will be added to Trail Finder (www.trailfinder.info). A sample trail posting on Trail Finder for the Trail Around Middlebury (http://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/trail-around-middlebury-tam) shows the different types of information—spatial, textual, photographic—that comprise a complete trail posting.

The selected student intern will help to gather, edit, attribute, and upload spatial trail data (both routes and points of interest) using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS data will primarily be provided by trail managing organizations. At times, the intern will need to collect trail data using hand-held GPS in the field. The intern will be responsible for the quality control of all GIS data, ensuring topological accuracy (e.g., GPS artifacts are removed, points fall along lines, lines connect at intersections) and assessing the accuracy of spatial data provided by partners.

The intern will also compile descriptive trail text, photos, and trail manager contact information. This information may be gathered from the trail manager staff, trail organizations’ websites, or from personal field work.

Both trail finder websites use ArcGIS plug-ins, QGIS software, and/or python scripts to export trail data into the correct format (.kml) for inclusion in the website. All content (spatial and otherwise) will be added to the trail finder websites using their respective Content Management Systems (CMS). The intern will be provided with training in the trail finder GIS data systems and export protocols as well as the CMS.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:**

The intern must have proficiency with ArcGIS 10.x software and using hand-held GPS units to gather and transfer data into GIS. Familiarity with QGIS software and basic python scripting are preferred but not required. The intern must be comfortable navigating the web and using online systems to support data upload/inclusion into the various trail finder websites’ CMSs. CMS training will be provided.

The intern must be comfortable hiking alone over various terrains to collect trail data in the field, for up to 8 hours in a day. The intern must be able to travel independently to trail locations. A valid driver’s license and access to a personal vehicle with insurance are therefore required. The opportunity and need to bike along trails may also arise.

Candidates should be self-motivated, comfortable working independently, well-organized, able to communicate well with project partners, and capable of setting and meeting project goals. Strong attention to detail will help the intern successfully include information on the websites following current content standards. Individuals with a strong
interest in recreational mapping, trail management, and learning more about the New England landscape will find this internship especially rewarding.

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

**Supervision:**

Jessica Savage (VTFPR)  
John Taylor (UVTA)  
Stephen Engle and/or Nicole Grohski (CCGIS)

**Start and End Dates:**

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

**Total Hours:**

20 hours/week, 12 weeks

**Compensation:** $12.50/hour

**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-RSRNR 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).