



Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2025

Internship Position Description

Internship Title: Sustainable Agriculture & Ecological Stewardship Intern (2 positions)

Internship Site: South Hero Land Trust (South Hero) and Sandy Bottom Farm (Isle la Motte)

Description: This field-based position is a partnership between the two host-sites and has the following primary goals:

- Learning & engaging in all aspects of operating a sustainable, certified-organic farm at Sandy Bottom Farm.
- Managing SHLT's two food access spaces: The Folsom Learning Garden and the South Hero Community Gleaning Garden, using skills learned at Sandy Bottom Farm, and assisting with outdoor-based youth education programs.
- Stewarding SHLT's public access and natural areas with the dual goals of protecting/enhancing ecological health and increasing the accessibility of those areas to diverse users.

This position is meant to familiarize the intern with a comprehensive list of skills required by land trusts in our region, and we believe that the work at each site complements the other.

Activities at Sandy Bottom Farm will include seeding, transplanting, crop maintenance, harvesting, washing, packing, cover-cropping, soil sampling, interpreting soil tests and applying amendments. Learn what it takes to interface with a gleaning nonprofit, learn about how food access programs are incorporated into the farm operations, and find ways to integrate produce seconds back into the donated food stream. By the end of the summer, interns will be familiar with all the main-season operations of a diversified, small scale organic farm and how those operations are influenced by and in response to climate change. Approximately one-half of internship hours will be spent at Sandy Bottom Farm in Isle la Motte, VT.

Activities at SHLT will include trail construction, trail maintenance, tree planting, invasive species removal, gardening, and assisting with environmental education for youth and adults. Interns will work alongside SHLT staff and volunteer land stewards to keep recreational access to natural areas open and safe, as well as steward the ecology of conserved lands, and provide produce to local food shelves. Approximately one-half of internship hours will be spent at South Hero Land Trust in South Hero, VT.

Please note that we are hiring two interns with the same position description, who will collaborate together and with SHLT and SBF staff to accomplish the above tasks. We expect to tailor the internship so that each intern can take the lead on particular aspects of the focus areas, depending on interest and experience.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework*: Experience or interest in sustainable agriculture, ecological restoration, food access, trail accessibility, and environmental education. Willingness and ability to be outdoors in inclement weather, undertaking physical work. Should be able to lift 50 lb containers of produce repeatedly. This position requires hard work, flexibility, independence, self-motivation, and a spirit of curiosity and collaboration. A background check will be required by the Grand Isle Supervisory Union. The ability to drive and/or willingness to carpool to South Hero and Isle la Motte on alternating days is required.

Supervision: This position will be co-supervised by SHLT and SBF permanent staff. The intern will work semi- independently in the field on a regular basis alongside fellow interns, staff, and volunteers.

Start and End Dates: (Mid-May to Mid-August 2025 – exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: (40 hours/week for 12 weeks)

Compensation: \$18/hour



Patrick Helman at Sandy Bottom Farm



Aerial view of Sandy Bottom Farm



Harvesting onions at Sandy Bottom Farm



Volunteer tree planting day with South Hero Land Trust



Class field trip to Round Pond State Park with South Hero Land Trust



Boardwalk construction volunteers with South Hero Land Trust

How to apply:

Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by summer 2025 are eligible to apply. Students graduating in May 2025 are not eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Descriptions in Handshake:
<https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837>

If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login.

Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future.

2. Click “View All Jobs” in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page.

3. You should now see the Perennial Internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.

Please do take the time to carefully read each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title.

You may apply for up to **three** Perennial Internships.

All applications are due by **11:59pm, on Friday, February 7th, 2025.**

4. You'll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:

Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake

Select Documents.

5. Please upload all documents as PDFs. The following are the required documents:

Resume

Cover Letter

You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.

In your cover letter, provide the name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, or a professor or teacher, etc. The person listed should not be the person who completes your recommendation form.

6. In addition to the documents listed above, a **recommendation form will need to be completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student, or staff member of your choosing**. When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender:

This link: [RECOMMENDATION FORM](#)

Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.

Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s). This recommendation form needs to be submitted by the February 7th, deadline.

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

Get your resume and cover letter reviewed by a Career Counselor at the Career Center. You can check the Career Center's drop-in hours [here](#). The Career Center also offers a guide on building your resume available [here](#).

Set up an appointment with one of Rubenstein's Career Coaches - [Emily LeForce](#) or [Cathy Shiga-Gattullo](#) - or with PIP Coordinator, [Sarah Mell](#). Sarah Mell will also be available on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm for PIP Drop-ins! Just swing by Aiken 220 to connect!

8. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during late February to early March.