



Rubenstein School of Environment
and Natural Resources

Perennial Internship Program- Summer 2026

Internship Position Description

Internship Title: Place-Based Educator and Land Steward (2 positions)

Internship Site: South Hero Land Trust (South Hero, VT)

Description: This position is based in South Hero and has the following primary goals:

- Co-developing and co-leading SHLT's youth education programs, including three weeks of nature and garden-based summer camps, as well as afterschool clubs and school garden lessons while school is in session.
- Assisting with coordinating adult education programs, including nature walks, farm tours, naturalist-led accessible kayaking events with Northeast Disabled Athletic Association, workshops, and other events.
- Assisting with planting, maintaining, and harvesting at SHLT's two food access spaces: The Folsom Learning Garden and the South Hero Community Gleaning Garden.
- 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.

Activities will include environmental and farm-to-school education for youth and adults, trail construction, trail maintenance, tree planting, invasive species removal, gardening, and outreach. Interns will work alongside SHLT staff and volunteer land stewards to provide high-quality education programs for youth and adults, 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.

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

We are hiring two “Place-Based Educator and Land Steward” interns, and they will work closely together to accomplish these activities. Each intern will be able to take leadership in certain areas depending on their skills and interests.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Experience or interest in environmental education, farm-to-school education, ecological restoration, trail building, trail accessibility, and/or sustainable agriculture. Knowledge of Vermont natural history and ecology, and eagerness to share with others is a plus. Willingness and ability to be outdoors in inclement weather, undertaking physical work. This position requires flexibility, independence, 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 is required.

This internship position has a wide variety of tasks, and we do not expect any intern to already have experience in all of these areas. If you have experience in some areas, and are excited to learn about others, we encourage you to apply.

Supervision: These positions will be supervised by SHLT permanent staff. Interns 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 2026– exact start/end dates are negotiable

Total Hours: 40 hours/week for 12 weeks

Compensation: \$18/hour

How to apply:

Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by summer 2026 are eligible to apply. Students graduating in May 2026 are not eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.

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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 the 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 Wednesday, February 4th, 2026.**

4. You’ll need to upload a Resume, Cover Letter, and Recommender File in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:

- Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
- Select Documents.
- 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.
 - ♣ Recommender File (see below) - as you will not have access to the form, you are asked to upload a PDF with the name and email of the recommender to whom you have sent the recommender form.

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5. 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 and 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 4th, deadline.**

6. 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 the PIP Coordinator, [Sarah Mell](#). Just swing by Aiken 220 to connect!

7. 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.

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