



## Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2026

### Internship Position Description

#### **Internship Title:** Trail Experience Intern

**Internship Site:** Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, Essex Junction District Office – Field Based (State Lands in NW VT including Camel’s Hump State Park, west side of Mt. Mansfield, Bolton Nordic & Backcountry, Niquette Bay State Park, Law Island State Park, and other locations in the district)

**Description:** This internship will expose the student to various tasks involved with managing recreation on public land. Each year, one discrete project is the focus of the intern with the opportunity to cross-train in the various tasks associated with public land management.

#### **[Discrete Project] Interpretive Project**

A key component of ensuring a high-quality visitor experience is providing new and returning visitors with information about a site as well as best practices for enjoying their time there. Both options come with the opportunity to meet and interact with a trained Interpreter, such as our Chief Interpreter, who is the expert in interpretative work for the Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

1. **Hub Vogelmann Plots:** The selected student will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the Hub Vogelmann Research Plots, which are along the Burrows Trail in Camel’s Hump State Park in Huntington, VT. Through both internet research and in-person interviews the intern will create interpretive panels that tell the story of the plots and the work they have contributed to in the past, and why they are currently important for climate change research.

#### **Data Collection and Analysis**

D3 currently has approximately 10 trail counters set up throughout the district. These trail counters are set up at both high-use trailheads as well as medium and low-use trailheads. An aspect of trail counter data collection is to have the data spot checked from time to time by an on-site counter. Based on data quality control work done by the 2025 intern, the 2026 intern can dig more into interpreting the data from high-use trails where there is frequent loop hiking vs. up and back hiking. This portion of the internship can be flexed in depth and breadth depending on the intern’s interest in this aspect of management.

#### **Other Opportunities**

The intern will be able to work with the Trail Coordinator on various tasks such as trail maintenance – which entails using hand tools to clear water diversion structures (ex. Waterbars, ditches) as well as removing blowdowns with handsaws. They may also shadow the Trail Coordinator when they are conducting trail assessments to plan future trail projects. The intern may join the Trail Coordinator for

workdays, including potentially working with trail crews on projects, such as helping rebuild bog bridging on a State Park nature trail.

The intern will have the opportunity to work with Niquette Bay State Park staff when they visit Law Island State Park to do basic maintenance of camp sites, privies, and the around-the-island trail.

The intern will have the opportunity to shadow the Outdoor Recreation Specialist on site visits with partner organizations.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:**

- Storytelling
- Creativity
- Environmental Interpretation
- Previous experience in education or other experience that has helped you gain insight into communicating complex topics into concise, non-technical language
- Experience or interest in layout and design
- Ability to work in and be prepared for nearly all-weather conditions including rain, heat, humidity, and bluebird days.
- Hike to and from project sites over rugged backcountry terrain, carrying tools and equipment
- Ability to work independently
- Professionally represent the Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation to the public and partner organizations
- Commitment to backcountry stewardship and Leave No Trace ethics
- Must have access to a vehicle

**\*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. \***

**Supervision:** Outdoor Recreation Specialist IV, Kathryn Wrigley

**Start and End Dates:** Mid-May – Mid-August 2026 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:** preferred schedule - 30 hours/week for 10 weeks (option for 20 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.**

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.

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 from late February to early March.