



Rubenstein School Non-Profit Board Fellows Program

Transform your RSENR PhD Experience!

Partnership Opportunities

ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain



ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain is Vermont's beloved science and nature museum located on Burlington's Waterfront. ECHO leverages its unique setting to inspire and engage families in the joy of scientific discovery, wonder of nature, and care of Lake Champlain. Since 1995, we have taught more than 3 million visitors about the role of science in our culture and lives. Annually welcoming more than 170,000 visitors, through 100+ interactive exhibits; 70 species of fish, reptiles, and amphibians. ECHO encourages visitors to view the natural environment as part of their neighborhood and to explore, learn about, and consider opportunities for stewardship.

"Becoming a board fellow with a local nonprofit organization was the best professional development training I had as a graduate student in RSENR. I witnessed how nonprofit boards influenced the function and vision of an institution and was encouraged to participate in all levels the board, from full board meetings down to small ad hoc committees." – Elias Rosenblatt, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain Board Fellow, 2017-2020



Green Mountain Club (GMC)

The Green Mountain Club is the founder and maintainer of the 273 mile Long Trail - the oldest long distance hiking trail in America. GMC manages more than 500 miles of trails and 70 overnight sites within the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail in Vermont, and Northeast Kingdom trail systems and has protected over 25,000 acres of Vermont forestland.

"The Board Fellows Program has been the most concrete form of professional development that I've received at UVM. Working with the Green Mountain Club over the past three years has given me insight into how scientists fit into the vision, goals, and operations of an organization involved with land conservation in Vermont." – Kenna Rewcastle, GMC Board Fellow, 2017-2020



The Nature Conservancy Vermont Chapter (TNC)

The Nature Conservancy is committed to creating a world where both people and nature thrive. Our mission, to protect lands and waters on which all life depends, relies on our scientific, non-partisan, solutions-oriented approach to solving the world's biggest environmental challenges. Our Board Fellows, as integral members of our Board of Trustees, provide advice, expertise and assistance in developing and implementing our conservation strategies, as well as engaging others in our work. They serve as ambassadors, bringing important perspective and ensuring that the Conservancy's conservation work remains tangible, accessible and relevant to the emerging issues of the day. We look forward to welcoming you!

Vermont Parks Forever (VPF)

Vermont Parks Forever (VPF), the foundation for Vermont State Parks, is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and enhancing Vermont's 55 state parks. VPF raises charitable funds to further its mission of inspiring stewardship of natural places, providing innovative educational experiences in the parks, and increasing access to parks for underserved communities.



"As someone interested in pursuing a career outside of academia, serving on the board of trustees for TNC Vermont has been among the most valuable and rewarding experiences of my PhD. I gained a deeper understanding of all facets of the organization, including the on-the-ground challenges and opportunities of conservation work often overlooked in academic settings. Simultaneously, my background and expertise in conservation planning and climate change adaptation enabled me to make meaningful contributions to organizational strategic planning. - Jesse Gourevitch, Nature Conservancy Board Fellow, 2018 - 2020

"Participating in the Board Fellows program has been one of the highlights of my PhD experience. The most memorable part of this experience was joining TNC at the State House as they pushed to get full funding for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board in 2020." – Eva Kinnebrew, Board Fellow for The Nature Conservancy Vermont Chapter, 2017-2020.

"VPF's Board of Directors is a small group of 10 individuals who are passionate about the outdoors and helping everyone access the state park system. The Board steers the organization through strategic planning, participates in fundraising activities and shares their experience and skills to further the mission. The Board meets quarterly and spends 2-4 hours/month on VPF initiatives. 2021 marks a time of dynamic growth for this young organization as it adds more staff, board members, supporters, and excitedly launches its first major in-park project with the redesign of the Groton Nature Center in the fall." - Sarah Alberghini Winters, Executive Director, VPF, 2021

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