Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program – 2020

Internship Title: Vermont Center for Ecostudies Mountains and Lakes Field Biology Internship

Internship Site: Based out of our Hartford, VT and Craftsbury, VT offices, with visits to our many field sites across Vermont and in the mountains of New Hampshire and possibly Maine or the Adirondacks. The intern will need to secure housing within 20-minutes of Norwich for the period of the internship.

Description: The Vermont Center for Ecostudies [VCE] is a science organization conducting research that directly informs the conservation of wildlife in New England and beyond, and we are looking to help train the next generation of field biologists—perhaps you. As a summer intern for VCE, you will be immersed in our diverse wildlife research and monitoring projects, including (but not limited to) long-term bird banding on the Mt. Mansfield ridgeline, the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, Mountain Birdwatch, and studies of vernal pool amphibian ecology. You and our Alexander Dickey Conservation Intern will become a tightknit team, working together throughout the summer alongside our senior staff of ecologists. Your responsibilities will vary from week to week, but for Mountain Birdwatch you will camp in the backcountry of the high mountains, practice leave-no-trace camping (1-2 nights at a time), and arise in the pre-dawn hours to conduct point count surveys for 10 high elevation bird species. Don’t worry, we can teach anyone to identify these 10 bird species by ear alone—you do not need to be an expert, just enthusiastic. For our Loon Conservation project, you will visit remote lakes and ponds in Vermont to monitor loon activity, search for nests, and deploy and recover floating signs and nesting platforms. You will also engage in spontaneous conversations with residents and recreationists at loon lakes, to both gather their observations and share information and educational materials about loon conservation. On the Mt. Mansfield ridgeline, you will help set up mist nets, remove birds from nets, and band birds like Blackpoll Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows. Of course, it won’t be sunny every day, so you’ll be in the office as well entering your data, creating maps with ArcGIS Pro, editing videos and our website, and updating materials to help our citizen scientists conduct biological surveys. There are lots of other opportunities for professional development, like being a part of an episode of Outdoor Radio for Vermont Public Radio. Attention to detail is essential for both fieldwork and office-based work.

Eligibility: Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by May 2020 are eligible to apply. Students graduating May 2020 are not eligible to apply.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: This internship requires a mature individual who has the ability to operate independently and also work collaboratively with the Alexander Dickey Conservation Intern. You will receive training and coordinate frequently with senior staff, but the team of interns will
often be responsible for carrying out the fieldwork without direct supervision. Strong and collegial communication skills are essential, as well as demonstrated good judgment in field-based situations. Some formal education in wildlife biology or a closely related field is necessary. Also required is a willingness to work unpredictable hours in demanding field conditions, physically exert oneself, be flexible in scheduling activities, and show an abundance of good-natured humor. Applicants should be prepared to travel independently around Vermont and occasionally to surrounding states, and to conduct surveys for montane bird species and loons. All necessary training will be provided, but you must have a reliable vehicle that can both transport a kayak and occasionally navigate unpaved roads. You must be able to read a road map and use it when driving to remote locations, without relying upon a phone app. Good hearing and an ability to work in variable weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 20 pounds in a backpack, camp in the backcountry, navigate on foot with a GPS in the dark, and otherwise maintain good physical condition are essential. Prior experience in the backcountry and conducting biological fieldwork would be helpful, but is not required.

**Supervision:** Mountain Birdwatch Coordinator (Jason Hill) and Loon Conservation Director (Eric Hanson)

**Start and End Dates:** Mid-May – Mid-August, 2020. Exact start/end dates are negotiable, but the intern must be available from at least May 18th through August 7th.

**Total Hours:** 40 hours/week, 12 weeks – Total of 400 hours

**Compensation:** $12.50/hour. Mileage reimbursement at the federally approved rate. This is a temporary position and not benefits-eligible.

**How to apply:**

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internships in Handshake [https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837](https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837)
   a. If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login.
   b. 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 great Perennial internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.
   a. Please do take the time to read through each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title.
   b. You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships.
   c. All applications are due by 11:59pm, Wednesday, January 29th, 2020.
4. You’ll need to upload all required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:
   a. Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake.
b. Select Documents.

5. Please upload documents as pdfs. The following are required documents:
   
   i. Resume.
   
   ii. Cover Letter - You should write & upload unique cover letters for each position to which you are applying to.
   
   iii. 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.
   
   iv. Other Required Documents - Reference(s) & Position Ranking - **in one document, please include & upload:**

   1. 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. The person listed should **NOT** be the person also completing your recommendation form.

   2. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, provide a list of the positions in rank order.

6. In addition to the documents you will need to submit, a recommendation form 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 to the recommendation form**

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

   b. 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 January 29th deadline.

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

   a. The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback – stop by Aiken 111.

   b. Stop by the Food, Environment & Sustainability Career Interest Group Drop In Hours in the Career Center (204 Davis Center): Tuesdays, 10:30am – 12pm and Wednesdays, 1:30pm-3pm

   c. Stop by Anna Smiles-Becker’s (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) office (Aiken 220G) to sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment.

8. A team of Rubenstein faculty and staff will be reviewing all submitted applications and forwarding materials onto each Perennial site. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.