

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2022

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

Internship Site: Based out of our Hartford offices, with field sites across Vermont and in the mountains of New Hampshire. The intern will need to secure housing for the period of the internship local to Hartford; summer sublets from Dartmouth students are available locally.

Description: This is a rare opportunity to be a conservation ecologist for the summer. This opportunity will immerse you in many aspects of our diverse wildlife research and monitoring projects, including (but not limited to) the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, Mountain Birdwatch, montane invertebrate sampling, long-term bird banding on the Mt. Mansfield ridgeline, pollinators surveys on utility rights-of-ways, and studies of vernal pool amphibian ecology. As the Mountains and Lakes Field Biology Intern, you will work as a team with our Alexander Dickey Conservation Intern throughout the summer. Responsibilities will vary throughout the summer, but will include fieldwork and office-based tasks such as data entry, map creation, and updating community science materials. Fieldwork for the Mountain Birdwatch project will include backcountry hiking and leave-no-trace camping, navigating by GPS and headlamp in pre-dawn hours to conduct surveys of high elevation songbirds. You will also aid in our invertebrate sampling efforts on Mt. Mansfield—deploying pitfall and window traps and sorting captured invertebrates back at the offices. For the Loon Conservation project, you'll be transporting a kayak or canoe on your vehicle and using it on remote lakes and ponds to monitor loon activity, search for nests, and deploy and recover floating signs and nesting platforms. The loon work will also necessitate spontaneous conversations with residents and recreationists at loon lakes, to both gather their observations and share information and educational materials as opportunity presents. For our pollinator survey project, you will live-capture, release, and photograph bumble bees and milkweed insect specialists.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: This internship requires significant maturity and ability to work independently and also collaboratively with VCE's Alexander Dickey Conservation Intern. Self-direction will be essential to completing assigned projects: after training is complete, you and the Alexander Dickey Conservation Intern will often be responsible for carrying out assigned 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 ecology or a closely related field is necessary. Also required is a willingness to work unpredictable hours in demanding field conditions, to physically exert oneself, to be flexible in scheduling activities, and to show an abundance of good-natured humor. Applicants should be prepared to travel independently around Vermont and occasionally to surrounding states, to conduct loon surveys via kayak (training

will be provided), and to conduct hiking-based surveys of 10 mountain bird species—the birds are rarely seen and almost all detections are made by ear. Ability to work in variable weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 20 pounds in a backpack, camp in the backcountry, and otherwise maintain good physical condition are essential. Willingness to camp in remote areas and ability to use a GPS for navigation on foot in the dark are also important. We will thoroughly train you, but you'll need your own pair of binoculars and a reliable vehicle that can transport a kayak and navigate unpaved roads.

***Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Seniors graduating in May 2022 are not eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required. Due to possible restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Perennial Internships may happen as described or be modified. ***

Supervision: The intern's summer work will be guided and coordinated by Mountain Birdwatch Coordinator, Jason Hill, Vermont EcoAmeriCorps member, Abbie Castriotta (who is serving with us at VCE), and VCE loon biologist, Eric Hanson.

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2022 (exact start/end dates are negotiable), but the intern must be available from *at least* May 23rd through early August.

Total Hours: 40 hours/week for 12 weeks

Compensation: \$15/hour. We will also provide financial assistance for housing and gear.

How to apply:

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Descriptions in Handshake: <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 carefully read 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, on Monday, February 21st, 2022.
4. You'll need to upload both 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 all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:
 - a. Resume
 - b. Cover Letter
 - i. You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.
 - ii. 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

 - a. This link: [recommendation form link](#)
 - b. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.
 - c. 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 21st, 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. Email the Stewards to schedule an appointment after the start of the semester: RSENRStewards@uvm.edu

- b. 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.](#)
8. 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.