

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2024

Internship Title: Trail Experience Intern

Internship Site: 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 provide the student with exposure to a variety of tasks involved with managing recreation on public land.

Interpretive Project (2 projects, intern can choose 1):

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 the Forests & Parks & Education Information Chief, who is the expert in interpretative work for the Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

1. **Camel’s Hump View Trail:** The selected student will have the opportunity to help create trailhead interpretive signage for the Camel’s Hump View Trail in Camel’s Hump State Park. This is a 0.8 mile universally accessible trail that currently has 7 benches and rest areas along it. The student will create content for 7 trailside interpretive panels to be posted at each rest area along the trail. The student will work with the Forest Recreation Specialist to identify the best way to utilize this opportunity. There will likely be an interest in incorporating natural history as well as human history.
2. **Friends of Bolton:** The selected student will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the Bolton Nordic Trails and the group of folks who continue to maintain them. Through both internet research and in-person interviews the intern will create interpretive panels that tell the story of the Friends of Bolton and the work they have done in the past, the work they did to conserve the land, and how they are currently involved in public land management as a partner organization. This work is associated with land in the town of Bolton in Mt. Mansfield State Forest.

Data Collection

The Forest Recreation Specialist currently has trail counters set-up at approximately 10 trailheads 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. The intern will focus on the three high-use trailheads for data validation and potentially car counting. This portion of the internship can be flexed in length and depth depending on the intern’s interest in the 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 for future trail projects. The intern may join the Trail Coordinator and/or the Burrows Trail Coordinator to work for a day on the Burrows Rehabilitation Trail Project on Burrows Trail in Camel's Hump State Park, Huntington, VT.

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 Forest 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: Forest Recreation Specialist, Kathryn Wrigley

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2024 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 30 hours/week for 10 weeks (ex. 20 hours/week for 12 weeks, 30 hours/week for 10 weeks)

Compensation: \$18/hour

How to apply:

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 right side of page.

3. You should now see the great 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 Monday, February 5th, 2024.**

4. You’ll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:

- Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
- Select Documents.

5. Please upload all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:

- Resume
- 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:

- 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 & 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 5th, deadline.

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

- The Rubenstein Student Advisory Board members are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback! Email the SAB to schedule an appointment after the start of the semester, or stop by their peer mentoring hours when the Spring semester starts (schedule to be posted by Jan 16, 2024): rsenrsab@uvm.edu
- 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](#).
- Get connected with folks in the Rubenstein Student Services Office for resume and cover letter review during drop-in hours:

Meghan Young – Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm, Aiken 219 Emily LeForce – Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm, Aiken 220 Hub Cathy Shiga-Gattullo – Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm, Aiken 220 Hub

8. 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.