

[Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program](#)

Community Science Institute is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and NYSDOH ELAP-certified water testing lab. Our mission is to empower communities to protect water quality through volunteer stream and lake monitoring in the Cayuga Lake watershed and the surrounding region. We manage four distinct water quality monitoring programs in partnership with over 250 local volunteers: [Synoptic Stream and Lake Monitoring](#), [Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring](#), [Biomonitoring](#), and [Red Flag Monitoring](#). Results from these programs are made available to the public on our online water quality database: www.database.communityscience.org. In addition, we provide free, hands-on water-themed educational opportunities to youth through our [Journey of Water summer program](#). Finally, we provide fee-based, certified drinking water testing services for the Cayuga Lake region and count the Tompkins County Health Department and Cornell University as well as dozens of businesses and hundreds of private homeowners among our clients.

Position Description: CSI is seeking an intern with an interest in water quality data and science education. This intern will work with project partners including Discover Cayuga Lake and a local teacher to design and compile a “Finger Lakes Data Jam” curriculum for 5th grade students using CSI’s online water quality database as a tool. The unit and related materials will become available to all classes in Discover Cayuga Lake’s Trout in the Classroom and Floating Classroom programs during the 2024-2025 school year and will be used as inspiration to develop creative approaches for using CSI’s water quality database in future outreach projects. While developing this curriculum will be the primary project for the intern, the intern may also be afforded the following opportunities through this position:

- Attend weekly lab meetings with the full CSI team
- Assist with the implementation of our outreach and education programs including generating social media content, providing support for Journey of Water activities, and writing articles for CSI’s website/monthly updates
- Provide support to administrative staff (e.g. customer service, report preparation, prepare sampling kits, etc.)
- Wash and prepare sample bottles for volunteer monitoring programs

General Information & Requirements:

- Interns will be under the supervision of a CSI staff mentor.
- Interns will participate in the ***Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program (the WIP)***, a coordinated program hosted by Discover Cayuga Lake supporting a number of partner organizations and businesses hosting interns working in a variety of environmental and social justice fields. **All WIP participants will participate in an initial orientation session, weekly group activities and a final presentation.**

- Must be able to provide personal transportation.
- Minimum age 18.

Experience: Specific experience is not required. However, we do require that interns be able to take initiative, work independently, solve problems, and pay attention to detail. Candidates with the following experience will be considered competitive for this position:

- At least 2 semesters of coursework in chemistry, environmental science, biology, or a related discipline
- Experience with science communication or science education
- Customer service experience
- Data analysis experience

We encourage candidates from historically underrepresented groups in the sciences to apply. We will fully consider all qualified applicants without regard to race, culture, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, lifestyle, marital status, or veteran status.

Timeline: May/June-August, flexible to accommodate school schedules, if applicable. Average of 20 hours/week (~ 17 hours/week on CSI specific projects and ~ 3 hours/week on WIP activities). Some weekend availability may be required.

Compensation: \$18.45/hour (Tompkins County Living Wage)

Application Process: Priority will be given to applications received by March 11th, 2024.

Email a cover letter including your interests and your goals for your internship this summer, a resume, two references, and any additional materials you feel may be relevant to: Dr. Grascen Shidemantle, Executive Director (info@communityscience.org).

Contact: Questions may be directed to info@communityscience.org or (607) 257-6606