

Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program



Discover
CAYUGA LAKE

Tourism with a Non-Profit Mission
www.DiscoverCayugaLake.org

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS - 3 or 4 paid positions available

Discover Cayuga Lake is based in Ithaca, NY. Our mission is to cultivate relationships between people and the watersheds upon which they depend, with a focus on Cayuga Lake. We aim to provide equitable access to Cayuga Lake and to foster appreciation of the importance of the Finger Lakes watersheds for local ecosystems, human use, and natural beauty. From May to October, we offer cruise programs aboard a 63-foot boat (the M/V Teal) to students, local residents and tourists. During the colder months, we offer a Trout in the Classroom Program, guiding students through the process of raising trout fry through the winter, and releasing them to local streams during the spring.

DCL will be hiring 3-4 Interns in 2024. Our internships support our mission-based programming, including watershed ecology studies, educational cruises, youth mentorship, social justice and eco-tourism initiatives. Boating skills are also part of the experience. Interns will spend roughly half of their time assisting with and leading stream and boat based educational programming for children and adults and half of their time focused on specific projects related to the following available positions:.

1. **Youth Program Development Intern:** Focus on providing support for our youth-based programming, especially our weekly Family Eco-Cruises. Work will include developing and delivering on-boat activities, mentoring our teenage Youth Crew, outreach and promotion.
2. **Lake Monitoring Assistant Intern:** Focus on helping DCL organize and communicate lake data to the community. Work will include assisting with weekly Lake Monitoring Cruises, mentoring Youth Crew and volunteers, outreach and promotion.
3. **Community Outreach & Marketing Intern (1 full time or 2 part time positions available) -** Focus on creating effective public outreach for DCL. Work will include promoting our mission and programming through social media, blogging, development of exhibit displays, support of video creation, mentoring Youth Crew and the organizing of community access cruises.

A variety of additional responsibilities for all positions may include:

- Developing new educational and interpretive content geared toward children, community members and/or tourists
- Presentation of materials and activities to crew members, students and guests
- Ecological research and data collection concerning local ecology, water quality, climate change, and/or other timely topics
- Marketing and Community outreach, including diversity, equity and inclusion efforts
- Developing skills in basic boating, managing lines, docking and safety procedures

Personal Projects:

During the interview process we will determine personal interests so as to create internships that meet DCL's programming and organizational needs, as well as the interests and personal development goals of applicants.

General Information & Requirements:

- Interns will be under the supervision of a DCL staff mentor.
- Interns will participate in the **Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program (the WIP)**, a coordinated program 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.
- Interns will work with the ships' captains, crew, and instructors and will be expected to share responsibility for the condition and cleanliness of the boat. Effective working relationships and teamwork are extremely important in this environment.
- Must be prepared to work outdoors, at streams and on a boat, in a range of weather conditions.
- Must be able to provide personal transportation.
- Minimum age 18.

Experience: Specific experience is not required, although candidates should share experience relevant to these positions. Familiarity with boats and boat safety are helpful, but not essential, and training will be provided. Please tell us if you have First Aid or Life Guard certifications. Discover Cayuga Lake is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to being an inclusive organization, are seeking candidates from diverse backgrounds, and encourage all to apply.

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

- June - August, interns will join interns from other Watershed Organizations participating in the Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program.
- May (if available) and June:
 - Be trained to support staff during school field trips to local stream sites or onboard Teal.
 - Provide assistance in one or more specific program areas that will become the focus of your internship corresponding to approximately 50% of work hours
- July and August - support our staff and crew on a variety of educational, community access and eco-tourism related cruise activities while working on intern project specific tasks

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

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

Email a cover letter - including your interests (and your Intern Position preference), your goals for your internship this summer, and a statement about your thoughts regarding diversity and inclusion in environment fields - a resume if you have one, two references, and any additional materials you feel may be relevant, to astrid@discovercayugalake.org. We will contact you to set up an interview.

Contact: Questions may be directed to astrid@discovercayugalake.org or (607) 327-5253

Suite 303, Tompkins Center for History and Culture 110 North Tioga Street Ithaca, NY 14850
discovercayuga@gmail.com | 607-327-5253 | discovercayugalake.org