

Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program



Discover
CAYUGA LAKE

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

“LOVE YOUR LAKE” INTERNSHIPS **~ several positions available ~**

Discover Cayuga Lake’s 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 cruises and paddle experiences to students of all ages, 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.

Love Your Lake (LYL) is an initiative focused on offering recreational lake-based experiences to community members, along with ecological education, with the ultimate goal of watershed appreciation and conservation.

Core Responsibilities for All Love Your Lake Interns:

- Assist with and co-lead guided paddle-based eco-tours throughout the summer (training will be provided)
 - Assist with trout release field trips in the early spring and floating classroom programs in the summer
 - Participate in the Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program (described below)
 - Coordinate specific projects related to the following available positions. Assist in the direct delivery of weekly experiences as well as their development, coordination, and promotion..
- 1. COMMUNITY PADDLE COORDINATOR** - Focus on leading and coordinating twice-weekly Community Paddle Eco-Tours, including guiding participants, working with co-guides and interns, updating and developing tour narration, managing equipment and logistics, and supporting customer experiences. The internship emphasizes building skills in ecological interpretation through paddlesports while gaining experience in outdoor leadership, storytelling, and community engagement.
 - 2. FAMILY ECO-CRUISE COORDINATOR** - Focus on supporting our weekly Family Eco-Cruises geared toward young children accompanied by caregivers. Work will include developing and delivering on-boat activities that both educate and entertain. This intern will also be mentoring

teenage Youth Guides, and assisting with community outreach, and promotion. This position will also be responsible for co-leading one guided paddle eco-tour per week..

- 3. YOUTH GUIDE MENTOR** - Work with DCL staff to provide support and mentorship to DCL's teenage Youth Development Program. Help teens gain lake science, interpretation, customer service, public speaking, and job skills by creating a fun and fruitful environment for learning. This position will also be responsible for co-leading one guided paddle eco-tour per week..
- 4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MARKETING ASSISTANT** - Create effective public outreach for our Love Your Lake Initiative. Work will include promoting our mission and programming through social media, blogging, video creation and participation in community events. Storytelling through a personal lens will be encouraged. This position will also be responsible for co-leading two guided paddle eco-tours per week.

Additional Responsibilities for all positions may include:

- Developing new educational and interpretive content geared toward children, community members, tourists and/or organizational staff and crew.
- 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.
- **Personal Interests:** 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 receive ongoing supervision, feedback, and mentorship from designated Discover Cayuga Lake staff, including regular check-ins to support learning goals and professional development.
- Interns will participate in the **Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program (the WIP)**, a coordinated program supporting a number of partner organizations hosting interns working in a variety of environmental fields. All WIP participants will participate in an initial orientation session, weekly group activities and a final presentation.
- Interns will work with the organizations' captains, crew, staff, and instructors and will be expected to share responsibility for the condition and cleanliness of the boat and/or paddlecraft. Effective working relationships and teamwork are extremely important in this environment.
- Interns are expected to follow all Discover Cayuga Lake safety protocols, risk management practices, and professional conduct standards while working with the public, youth participants, and partner organizations.
- Must be prepared to work outdoors, at streams, on the lake, on boats and paddlecraft, in a range of weather conditions.
- Must be able to provide personal transportation to program sites, including waterfront locations and stream access points that may not be accessible by public transit.)
- Must be able to safely lift, carry, and maneuver paddlecraft and related equipment weighing up

to 40+ lbs, including loading/unloading boats and transporting equipment to and from launch sites.

- Minimum age 18.

Experience: Specific experience is not required, although candidates should share experience relevant to these positions. Familiarity with boats, paddlecraft and boat safety are helpful, but not essential, and training will be provided. Please tell us if you have First Aid, Life Guard or Outdoor Leadership training and 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. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions. Applicants are encouraged to discuss accommodation needs during the interview process.

Timeline: May/June-August, flexible to accommodate school schedules, if applicable. Average of 30 hours/week. Some weekend availability required.

- May (if available) and June:
 - Support staff during school field trips to local stream sites for trout releases
- June - August
 - Participate in mandatory Watersports Safety and CPR/First Aid training
 - Provide assistance in line with your position title
 - Support our staff and crew on a variety of educational, community access and eco-tourism related activities
 - Join interns from other watershed organizations participating in the Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship Program for weekly Monday activities and to coordinate the final event, the Love Your Lake Symposium
- August 10th - A presentation of your summer work at the Love Your Lake Symposium.

Compensation: \$20//hour

Application Process: Priority will be given to applications received by March 9th

Use the form provided on the [Cayuga Lake Watershed Internship webpage](#). You will be asked to express your interests, to upload a resume, and provide one or two references. We will contact you to set up an interview.

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

