

C-StREAM Internship Program Environmental Literacy Workgroup Intern

Project Description

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) and Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) seek a summer intern for late May through mid-August 2024 (12 weeks) to work with the Environmental Literacy and Partnerships branch (EL&P) and the Chesapeake Bay Program's Stewardship Goal Team. The EL&P branch, in part, encourages and supports K-12 education in the development and implementation of comprehensive environmental literacy programs by supporting regional environmental literacy policy initiatives, education resource development, grantmaking, and professional learning programming. The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is a partnership that guides the conservation and protection of the Bay. One of the goals of the Bay Program is to support students and schools in progressing towards environmental literacy and NCBO leads this component of the Bay Program's work. Another of the goals is to increase the number and diversity of stewards of the Bay and its watershed, and it includes efforts to be more inclusive in Bay conservation and restoration. These intentions intersect under the Stewardship Goal Team which encompasses work toward environmental literacy, stewardship, and diversity outcomes, as well as land conservation and public access to waterways. The current Chesapeake Bay Agreement aims to achieve its outcomes by 2025 and the Partnership is working on updating/developing the new agreement or approaches outlined in it to guide their efforts beyond 2025.

In efforts to engage and involve more of the residents of the watershed that the Bay conservation/restoration work aims to serve; the Partnership seeks to provide a variety of opportunities for different voices to be heard and to help shape future investments. The selected intern will work with the CBP Education Workgroup and its partners to convene listening sessions that explore and document perspectives among diverse communities about local concerns regarding the environment, health, and related topics; given these concerns, what the future of environmental literacy work in the region should look like, and how educational activities can incorporate nurturing stewardship awareness and skills among our future generations. This information will inform conversations about the next iteration of work under the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The intern will also explore the potential for a climate change project proposal that draws on the ideas from these listening sessions as well as the priorities and members of the Education, Diversity, and Stewardship Workgroups (i.e., community resilience hubs).

Opportunities

In this position, the intern will work side by side with professionals at the forefront of environmental literacy policy and program development and will have opportunities to interact with practitioners focusing on stewardship and social science, as well as diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). The intern will develop and hone community-based research, engagement as well as interview skills, information management capabilities, and grant/proposal writing skills. While supporting these engagement opportunities the intern will also develop skills useful in communicating, learning, and working with large and diverse audiences. They will have the opportunity to strengthen planning and public speaking/presentation skills

throughout the summer. The intern will work both independently and as part of a team to create data collection tools, learn about methods to synthesize and analyze data gathered, and to develop engaging programming in support of regional efforts.

Deliverables

- Design and implement a process and format for community listening sessions that will be a venue for community stakeholders to provide input on the environmental literacy and related stewardship aspects of the next Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- Develop a report synthesizing input from the community listening sessions including key themes and recommendations.
- Draft a proposal that will be used to solicit Goal Implementation Team (GIT) funding to support a future project identified through the community listening sessions. If funded, the project would then likely take place in 2025, outside of the scope of the internship.
- Identify two to three personal professional development goals to achieve during the internship, determine steps to achieve those goals, and report on progress each week. Examples of professional development goals include developing particular professional skills, learning particular topics related to NOAA, developing a broader professional network, or attending professional and/or academic conferences.
- Present to NCBO staff at the conclusion of the internship summarizing the experiences gained and work conducted.

Required Qualifications

- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Strong independent research skills.
- Experience developing, working with, and synthesizing complex information.
- Familiarity with data management and Google spreadsheets.

Desired Qualifications

- Experience (work or study) in environmental science or community engagement and education.
- Interest in climate, sustainability, community engagement, or education-related careers.
- Motivated self-starter with the ability to work proactively and reason independently, consistently share progress updates and recommend or inquire about next steps toward project completion.
- The ability to work well with others and incorporate feedback into work products.
- Must be a college-level student entering sophomore, junior, or senior year of undergraduate study.
- Must be a U.S. citizen and willing to undergo a security background check.

Work Location and Duration

We envision that this position will be an in-person position and will be based out of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office in Annapolis or the Cooperative Oxford Lab in Oxford, Maryland.

The position will begin in mid-May and conclude in mid-August and will be in place for 12 weeks. We plan on providing interns with access to a NOAA computer, email, and phone services (in the office).

Compensation

The intern will receive a stipend at the end of each month, for a total of up to \$6,000 for the equivalent of 12 weeks of full-time activities (422 Hours). Funds are available to compensate interns for occasional work-related travel and a \$1000 housing stipend will be available to support housing costs and related needs. Candidates should expect to follow a normal weekday work schedule (roughly 9-5, M- F) with occasional variations for possible fieldwork or other activities. No benefits are provided.

Diversity and Inclusion

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive science-oriented workforce. Our internship program endeavors to recruit from a diverse, qualified group of potential applicants to secure a high-performing workforce drawn from all segments of American society. NOAA is strongly supportive of broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. We highly encourage applications from students at any of the above institutions as well as students that identify as black, Indigenous, person of color, or 1st generation college student.

Application Instructions

Applicants are instructed to the online application on this website: <https://chesapeake.org/c-stream/> to apply. Comprehensive application instructions are found on this web page. You will be instructed to submit an application form, a transcript, a resume, and a cover letter. You will also be asked to review the suite of placements and determine which ones you want to pursue and request letters of recommendation. **The deadline for applications is by midnight on January 28, 2024. The reference form is due by February 4, 2024.**