

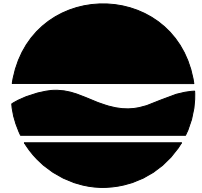
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Rogers Environmental Education Center

2721 Highway 80, Sherburne, New York 13460-4507

Phone: (607) 674-4017 • FAX: (607) 674-2655

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

NATURALIST INTERN PROGRAM

Train at a New York State DEC Environmental Education Center to Become an Environmental Educator

The environmental education centers operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation offer ten- to twelve-week naturalist training internships to persons seeking professional experience in environmental education. Each intern will receive training in the mission and role of the environmental education bureau within the DEC, a wide variety of education center programs, the operations and activities of a nature center, principles of environmental interpretation, and natural history of New York. Interns will assume the role of environmental education staff in carrying out the responsibilities necessary to meet the center's objectives. Opportunities for training and development of specific skills will be available depending on each intern's interests and the center's needs.

Qualifications:

Anyone with a minimum one year college-level study may apply. Academic training in natural resources, natural sciences (geology, biology), environmental science, education, recreation, or a related field is advantageous. Preference will be given to candidates with a strong natural history background and a demonstrated interest in environmental education.

Intern Benefits:

- Training in natural history and environmental communication skills
- Experience in all aspects of environmental education center operation
- Frequent evaluations
- Possibility of college credit
- Employment recommendations
- Housing in a fully furnished house with private room
- Office space provided
- Opportunity to work with other divisions of DEC
- Opportunity to visit other environmental education centers
- \$225 per week stipend

Intern Responsibilities:

(may vary slightly depending on location and season of internship)

Educational Activities

- Complete intern training: orientation to job and DEC, environmental education philosophy and techniques, environmental education literature, customer service, safety, and emergency procedures
- Plan and lead a variety of environmental activities for a wide variety of audiences including: preschool, elementary, middle, high school, youth groups, special needs groups, general public
- Design, prepare, conduct, and evaluate an original environmental education presentation

- Interact with the public during weekend and weekday Visitor Center receptionist duty
- Write newsletter or newspaper articles on natural history or environmental topics
- Attend teacher training workshops and assist staff in conducting; including Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, and Project WET
- Attend staff nature study training sessions
- Complete a project (to be arranged with the intern's supervisor). Examples of past projects:
 - plan and present a walk on a particular topic either on or off-site
 - create a themed audio-visual presentation
 - design and construct an exhibit
 - develop new lesson plans and teaching activity materials
 - write a seasonal trail guide
 - prepare taxidermic mounts

Administrative Duties

- Complete a visual impressions report of grounds, trails, and exhibits
- Interview each staff member for practice in interviewing and to learn about each staff member's job
- Assist staff in planning seasonal general public programs
- Attend a meeting of the center's not-for-profit support organization
- Care for live animals
- Visit other DEC education centers
- Check trails and exhibits, update program announcements, perform other "professional chores."
- Survey nest box use
- Complete an evaluation of the Internship Program

Workday/Living Arrangements/Compensation:

Normal workdays are 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM Monday through Friday. Some weekend and evening work required with compensatory time off. Each center provides housing, with fully-equipped kitchen, furnished living room and private bedroom. Interns receive a stipend of \$225 per week.

To Apply:

1. Use the application form later in this document, or download it at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1829.html> on the DEC website.
2. Submit completed application (for *any* center) along with a cover letter and resume to:

Fred Von Mechow
 Rogers Environmental Education Center
 2721 Highway 80
 Sherburne, New York 13460-4507
 email: rogers@gw.dec.state.ny.us
3. **You can apply to more than one center through one application to Mr. Fred Von Mechow.**

For specific information about the program at individual centers, call that environmental education center. (See the next four pages for specific information about each center's program and contact information.)

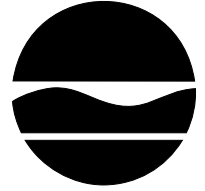
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, New York 12054

Phone: (518) 475-0291 • FAX: (518) 439-8044

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



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Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

Contact: Anita Sanchez

Email: 5rivers@gw.dec.state.ny.us put "Naturalist Intern" in the subject

Website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1835.html

Location: Eastern New York, seven miles southwest of Albany, off Route 443 in Delmar, a rural/suburban area close to the Capital District in Albany County. Five Rivers has a small professional staff and broad based community support. Over one hundred volunteers add greatly to the center's effectiveness.

Description of the center: Five Rivers' 330 acres have a wonderful diversity of habitats. A hemlock-shaded forest stream, wide expanses of open meadow, and many ponds serve as magnets for wildlife. Frequent beaver and deer activity is observed and over 170 species of birds have been sighted at the center.

Being near a major population area, over 100,000 visitors come to the center annually. Five Rivers provides two-hour guided lessons spring, winter, and fall, to thousands of elementary school children. Five Rivers staff also work extensively with teachers, providing workshops, consultations on developing school environmental sites, and providing a vast array of teacher loan kits and other materials for use in the classroom. Five Rivers also offers a wide range of public programs on weekends and evenings, from night walks to early morning bird walks.

Specifics of the Five Rivers Internship: The duties of an intern vary somewhat with the season. However in each season, an intern would be responsible for observing classes, attending training sessions, and working with students in the outdoors.

In spring and fall, interns would be most heavily involved with the school program, teaching a wide range of environmental education classes to students. In winter, interns teach classes on snowshoeing and on the art and science of maple sugaring. Summer is actually the least busy time in terms of teaching. Interns are involved with groups of families during the family nature program, senior citizen programs, and a series of public nature walks.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center

79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls, New York 12590

Phone: (845) 831-8780 • FAX: (845) 831-3416

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



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Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center

Contact: Rich Parisio

Email: skfarm@gw.dec.state.ny.us put "Naturalist Intern" in the subject

Website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1833.html

Location: Southeastern New York, approximately 1½ hours north of New York City and two hours south of Albany. 2 ½ miles north of Interstate 84 on Route 9D, in Dutchess County.

Description of the center: 756 acres of rolling farmlands: cultivated croplands, pastures, fallow fields, hardwood forests, conifer plantation, ponds, streams, and wetland afford a rich variety of habitats for plant and wildlife communities. Six trails include 7 ½ miles available for ecology lessons, teacher workshops, bird walks, and leisure hiking.

An 1840 Italianate manor house serves as the interpretation and administrative center and houses exhibit and meeting rooms, a library, office, and lavatories, all with access for the handicapped. The working farm includes a 19th century barn and farmhouse, a farm maintenance and storage shop, and a greenhouse. All of the Center's buildings have been included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Specifics of the Stony Kill Internship: Fall, winter and spring interns experience a variety of teaching opportunities including walks, lectures, films, demonstrations, and workshops with a major emphasis on natural history, farming and gardening, ecology, natural resource management, and environmental quality.

Environmental education programs featuring experiential outdoor ecological learning are offered September through June to grade school classes and youth groups. A children's and family day camp is offered in July and August. Environmental and civic groups may arrange for special programs.

Additional internship experiences may include working with live animal exhibits, writing articles, participating in teacher training workshops, trail work, assisting with farm chores, etc.

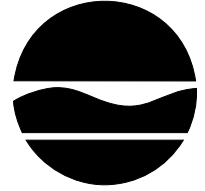
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Rogers Environmental Education Center

Contact: Fred Von Mechow

Email: rogers@gw.dec.state.ny.us put "Naturalist Intern" in the subject

Website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1831.html

Location: Central New York, between Utica and Binghamton, on NY State Route 80 in Sherburne, in a rural setting in Chenango County.

Description of the center: 570 acres of diverse ecosystems. Cultivated land, old fields, hardwood forests, conifer plantations, swamp forest, pond, and river provide a wide variety of habitats. The Chenango River borders Rogers Center.

The Visitor Center houses exhibits, a classroom, the Hotchkiss Memorial Library, restrooms, staff offices, and a reception area. The Bird Exhibit Cabin contains the George Lesser mounted bird collection and other bird exhibits.

Six nature trails cover about 3 miles and interpret the ecology of the area. An additional 4 miles of trails are less heavily used. An overlook tower is located along one trail.

Specifics of the Rogers Internship: Fall, winter, and spring interns at Rogers Center spend about half their time preparing for and teaching classes to school students and youth groups. Summer interns work with youth groups and design the summer children's series of programs for the public.

All interns complete a major project. Popular projects include exhibits, informational booklets, and teaching materials. Smaller percentages of time are devoted to writing newsletter and newspaper articles, receptionist duty, professional chores (trail checks, exhibit checks, etc.), training activities, and other odd jobs.

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center**

93 Honorine Drive, Depew, New York 14043

Phone: (716) 683-5959 • FAX: (716) 686-0210

Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center

Contact: Kristen Rosenberg

Email: rwnp@gw.dec.state.ny.us put “Naturalist Intern” in the subject

Website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/1837.html

Location: Western New York, approximately 20 minutes from downtown Buffalo and 10 minutes from Interstate 90 in Cheektowaga, NY.

Description of the center: Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center is located at the Dr. Victor Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, a unique 292-acre complex of forests, ponds, and wetlands surrounded by suburban development. Often referred to as “Buffalo’s Backyard Wilderness,” Reinstein Woods includes eight miles of gravel roads, 19 ponds and wetlands created by a man-made system of dams, and approximately 76 acres of mature Beech-Maple forest. Other important habitats include immature forests, conifer plantations, vernal pools, shrub swamp, and wet meadow. The preserve is one of the best places to easily see wildlife in Western New York. Great blue herons, beaver, deer, mink, snapping turtles, pileated woodpeckers, wood ducks, frogs and many other wildlife species are often observable. Currently, two trails are open to the public for self-guided tours. The remaining trails are accessible by guided tour only.

A 4,900 square foot Education Center opened in April 2007. The center, which is a “green building,” features exhibit, library, classroom, meeting, nature viewing, and office space.

Seasonal nature programs are offered year-round on a variety of topics, such as spring wildflowers, bird watching, snowshoeing, stroller struts, and full moon walks.

Specifics of the Reinstein Woods Internship: The duties of the intern vary throughout the year. Interns would be responsible for such tasks as leading tours for the public and school groups, trail monitoring, developing school lessons, developing exhibits, contributing to the quarterly newsletter, performing building/phone duty, light office work, and database maintenance for library materials, and other relevant research. All interns complete a major project which can be composed of the duties listed above or arranged with the supervisor.

NATURALIST INTERN APPLICATION



Personal Information:

Name: _____ Sex: M F Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

I will be at this location until _____

Telephone: Home _____ Best time to be reached _____

Work or School _____ Best time to be reached _____

Cell _____ Best time to be reached _____

Location of internship desired (number in order of preference)

_____ Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center, Wappingers Falls, NY

_____ Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, NY

_____ Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, NY

_____ Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center, Depew, NY

Seasons Available (number the seasons you are available in order of preference, and fill in year):

Please return applications at least four (4) months in advance of desired season, if possible.

_____ January-March, 20____ _____ Mid June-August, 20____ Dates you are available for internship:

_____ April-June, 20____ _____ September-November, 20____ _____

Education:

High School Name _____ Town _____ State _____ Graduation Year _____

Colleges _____ Major/Minor _____ Years Completed _____ Graduation Date _____

Pertinent college-level courses: _____

Other notable experiences: _____

Hobbies, interests, skills: _____

Work or volunteer experiences:

(Please list most recent employment pertinent to environmental education.)

(Employer) (Your title) (Dates of employment)

Duties: _____

(Employer) (Your title) (Dates of employment)

Duties: _____

How will you benefit from this program?

Please attach a short essay (no longer than one page and please use size 12 Arial or Times New Roman font with one-inch margins) on how you feel you will benefit from the Naturalist Internship Program. You can include career goals, interests, environmental concerns, etc. in the essay.

References:

(Please include letters of reference or names and phone numbers for three individuals we may contact as references.)

Please include a current resume with this completed form and return to

Fred Von Mechow

Rogers Environmental Education Center

2721 State Highway 80

Sherburne, NY 13460

Signature _____

Date _____