Summer Internship Program

Organization Name: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Location: 721 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

Website: bnwaterkeeper.org

Organization Description and Core Values:

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper® protects and restores our water and surrounding ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. We protect clean water. We restore the health of ecosystems. We connect people to water. We inspire economic growth and community engagement.

For the past 30 years, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has been the guardian of Western New York’s fresh water. Our mission is four-fold: we PROTECT the water, we RESTORE both the waterways and the surrounding ecosystems, and we CONNECT people to their waterways, and we INSPIRE both economic activity along the waterways and community engagement.

In the late 60s, the Buffalo River was officially declared dead. Fast forward to 1989, with not a lot of improvement, and Friends of the Buffalo River is formed. Our organization worked tirelessly for the last three decades, and with many partners, to bring the Buffalo River back to life. It’s a tremendous, largely untold success story that played a large part in the city’s resurgence and renaissance in recent years. The story of the Buffalo River is a tale of caution, determination, hope and resurgence, and our mission going forward is to work to achieve the same successes on our other waterways, as well, in addition to protecting our headwaters throughout the watershed.

Position Supervisor & Title: Emily Dyett, Project Coordinator – Community Engagement

Internship Title: Community Engagement Intern

Internship Duties and Responsibilities:

Community Engagement interns will work with staff on various projects that involve working closely with the local community. In Spring of 2022 this intern will focus the majority of their attention on assisting with planning and implementation of the Spring Sweep which is part of the Great Lakes CleanUP. The Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Spring Sweep is the largest single day cleanup and the largest Earth Day celebration in WNY. It is also part of the basin wide Great Lakes CleanUP that joins together cleanup efforts across all 5 lakes to have a collective impact. It is the goal of the organization to ensure this event is just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive. Help is needed to recruit traditional underrepresented communities in Earth Day celebrations.
Minimum Requirements:
- Say Yes Buffalo Scholar enrolled in college full-time in good academic standing – must be at least a rising sophomore
- Recent college graduates will also be considered!
- Ability to talk comfortably with general public
- Comfortable working outdoors, especially around water
- Must have Saturday morning availability

Desired Skills:
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Knowledge of local water quality issues
- Interest in sampling local waterways for basic water quality parameters
- Photography and interest in fundraising/marketing

Tasks:
Spring Sweep Volunteer/Event Coordination
- Prepare supply bins for site captain
- Scout sites for the cleanup to ensure we have 50 sites in need of litter cleanups
- Help recruit community-based Site Captains by reaching out to block clubs, churches, and community centers to recruit leaders who live near sites in need
- Help recruit community-based volunteers by posting flyers in underrepresented community gathering sites

Spring Sweep Media/Marketing
- Drafting and scheduling social posts based on a campaign plan document
- Updating the Great Lakes Cleanup Social Media Toolkit using Canva
- Drafting Save the dates and posters using Canva

Addition CE Task
- Assist in leading shoreline plantings and restoration events.
- Assisting with tabling/direct outreach about local waterways and water protection.
- Supporting CE staff with day-to-day tasks.
- Updating website calendar with events
- Collecting, taking, and sorting event pictures

NOTE: The employer is willing to train interns on tasks they may not be familiar/comfortable with.

Intern Takeaways:
- Develop communication skills and learn to work with a team of volunteers
- Gain knowledge of WNY water quality issues and solutions
- Gain experience planning community cleanup events
- Gain experience in outdoor/experiential education for a high school audience
- Gain experience sampling water using high tech equipment

Application Deadline: Friday, January 14th, 2022 by 5:00PM
Duration of employment:
- The internship preferred start and proposed end date is **February 1st to April 29th**
- Interns can work **10 to 15 hours per week** for 13 weeks during the **Spring of 2022** – exact start and end date will be decided upon by employer and hired intern
- Interns are expected to complete a **total of 190 hours**

Compensation:
The position pays $14.00 per hour

   Note: Any determination regarding academic credit will be made by the intern's academic department.

Accommodations:
The Say Yes Internship Program is committed to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities, including physical access to programs and reasonable accommodations for interns.

COVID-19 Accommodations:
- There is an **option to work remotely**, but the internship is **not fully remote**
  - There are times that you are **expected to be on-site**
  - There will be **some tasks** that you can choose to do from home
- The company would like to know **vaccination status**
- You are **required to wear a mask** in the office if you are not vaccinated
  - Contingent on COVID cases, masks may be always required for all

Interviews:
Interviews will be conducted in January and the hired intern will be chosen by **January 28th**.

To Apply:
Submit resume to **buffalointernships@sayyesbuffalo.org**.

   We advise going to your Career Center prior to sending in your resume for review.

The Internship & Career Pathways Program is downsizing and **editing services will be limited** moving forward.

Please note: Internships are competitive and not every scholar will receive an interview. If you are selected for an interview, the employer will contact you directly.