



BALD HEAD ISLAND CONSERVANCY, INC.

Environmental Education Internship

Summary:

The Bald Head Island Conservancy Intern Program is open to rising juniors, seniors or recent graduates from any accredited college or university, with majors in biology, marine biology, environmental science, education, or a related course of study.

Bald Head Island is part of a 12,000-acre island complex (Smith Island Complex) located at the mouth of the Cape Fear River in southeastern North Carolina, and consists of three forested peninsulas interconnected by a continuous beach strand: Bluff, Middle and Bald Head Islands. Bald Head Island features an upscale residential community of approximately 1,100 homes, with approximately 200 permanent year-round residents. The southern tip of the complex is Cape Fear, and includes ten miles of ocean beach. The island is accessible by a private passenger ferry from Southport, NC.

Funding for this internship is provided by Bald Head Island Conservancy, Inc. (*the Conservancy*), a non-profit organization formed in 1983. The Conservancy's mission is three-fold: conserving and preserving the natural resources of the Smith Island Complex and surrounding waters; providing quality environmental education for island residents and visitors; facilitating scientific research of benefit to the environmental resources of the area. As a part of this mission, the Conservancy operates a nationally recognized *Sea Turtle Protection Program*, and is the only non-governmental agency in North Carolina allowed to conduct flipper tagging of sea turtles. Because of the Conservancy's long-standing commitment to this conservation program, Bald Head Island is used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife as an index beach for sea turtle nesting activity.

In addition, the Conservancy provides diverse educational programs and activities for the island community, and serves as an environmental monitor for the island ecosystems. Within a campus at the east end of the island, the Conservancy's facilities include a modern four bedroom "dorm" (used to house the naturalist, summer interns, and visiting researchers), the Barrier Island Study Center, an education center, and the gift shop *Turtle Central*, which underwrites much of the Conservancy's operation. In addition, the Conservancy owns a 21-acre nature preserve on Middle Island, and employs a permanent staff of 9 and a part time staff of 2. This internship is intended to give undergraduates not only environmental education experience, but also experience in working at a small non-profit organization. While the majority of the summer will be spent assisting with camps and various educational programs, interns will also work at Turtle Central, staff BHI's information center, and help with other various office-oriented projects (such as mail pickup and envelope stuffing). Interns will also conduct individual research

projects that match their interests. Little scientific research has been conducted on the island apart from that focused on sea turtles. The research projects will not only benefit the student, but also provide the island, residents and researchers with invaluable knowledge of the island and its inhabitants. Students will be expected to complete the research project and present the results to the community at the end of the summer. In addition students are encouraged to write a proposal for future research in the format of the NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship.

The work of the environmental education intern is supervised by the Conservancy's *Director of Education* and the *Environmental Educator*. As the primary educator of the Bald Head Island Conservancy, the Director of Education is responsible for the development, implementation and coordination of its education programs.

Position Responsibilities

The environmental education intern performs their duties on the island at the direction of the Conservancy's Executive Director, Director of Education, and Environmental Educator. Day-to-day supervision and coordination of the intern shall be the responsibility of the Director of Education. The Executive Director is the chief executive officer of the Conservancy, and has overall responsibility for management of the organization.

The environmental education intern must assume the following responsibilities:

1. Assist the Education staff with Conservancy Camp, a full day M-F camp for rising 2nd-rising 6th graders, Camp Pollywog, a 3-hour M-F camp for 4 year olds-rising 1st graders, and C-Patrol, a 3-hour M-F camp for 11-14 year olds; may include some independent teaching of the camps under Director of Education supervision.
2. Assist the Education staff with a variety of environmentally oriented programs for the public, including but not limited to, kayaking, nature hikes and short lectures on such topics as alligators, sea turtles and barrier islands; ability to work in physically challenging environment including intense heat & humidity and bugs (mosquitoes and no-see-ums) while keeping an upbeat personality with the visitors.
3. Assist the Education staff with the care and maintenance of tanks, displays and classroom space.
4. Assist with other duties as necessary, including working in the Turtle Central Gift Shop, the Information Center, and the Conservancy Office.
5. Develop, execute and present individual research project; prepare a follow-up proposal based on the individual research projects.
6. Promote and practice stewardship of the Conservancy's facilities, properties, and research equipment.
7. Participate in Conservancy special events during his/her tenure on the island.

8. Live in the Conservancy's dormitory, during their service period, from mid-May through mid-August, with 13 other interns and the Sea Turtle Program Coordinator.
9. Understand and agree to the documents *Guidelines for Naturalist and Summer Interns*, and *Dormitory Regulations and Advice* prepared by the Conservancy.
10. Must possess a valid Driver's License.

Students selected for the environmental education internship may wish to explore the possibility of planning a Directed Individual Study with an academic advisor from their school, in order to receive credit for activities conducted under this program.

Selection Process

A selection advisory committee is composed of the Director of Education, Environmental Educator, Sea Turtle Program Coordinator, and Director of Conservation. Currently, the Environmental Educator is responsible for announcing the availability of summer education internships and receiving applications. The entire selection committee will interview candidates and rank applications in accordance with the *Application Protocol for Research Assistantships*. **All candidates selected for the internship must undergo a background check at the expense of the Conservancy.**

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria for the environmental education internship is as follows:

1. Outstanding undergraduate (rising junior or senior) student or recent graduate at an institution of higher learning.
2. Candidates for the internship will be judged on:
 - Education and academic potential
 - Character and leadership
 - Ability to be a team player
 - Public relations and communication skills: outgoing, helpful and positive personality; ability to work well with children and adults; comfortable giving lectures to adults and children; maturity and leadership abilities; the ability to handle sensitive situations in a tactful and diplomatic manner.
 - An expressed interest or background in environmental education or biology and a willingness to work in a field environment that can be physically challenging.

Term

The term of the environmental education intern is for a period of three months: from mid-May to mid-August, subject to undergraduate academic schedules. **Interns should be able to arrive on BHI on the weekend of May 12/13, though a day or two of flexibility may be allowed depending on academic exam schedules and be able to stay until August 13, give or take a day.** Applicants who have graduated may have the chance to extend their stay, as we typically extend employment of one intern through the fall. Arrival in mid-May provides for a training period of approximately two weeks prior to the start of actual educational duties on the island. The education intern serves at the will of the Conservancy, and the positions may be terminated by the Conservancy at any time.

Funding

The stipend to be paid for the recipient of the Bald Head Island Conservancy Environmental Education Intern shall be \$1,200 per summer, paid monthly; this amount is pre-tax. In addition to the stipend, living quarters in the Conservancy dorm are provided, as well as weekly ferry tickets for trips between the island and the mainland, and parking for a vehicle at the mainland ferry terminal. Please note that males and females will have separate bedrooms.

Assessment

The environmental education intern's in-service performance shall be assessed by the Education staff, and shall be forwarded to appropriate academic sponsor, if applicable.

Application Deadline

The deadline to receive applications for 2012 summer internships is February 10, 2012. Follow application directions very carefully, as incomplete applications will not be considered. Please *mail* your application to the address below; email is NOT preferable.

*If you desire more information about the
Environmental Education Internship,
please contact:*

Kendyll Goeman, Environmental Educator
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