



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Internship Opportunities in Alaska

Conservation Internship Program 2015 Host Organizations:

- Alaska Center for the Environment
- Alaska Community Action on Toxics
- Alaska Marine Conservation Council
- Castle Mountain Coalition
- Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- Cook Inletkeeper
- Discovery Southeast
- Kenai Watershed Forum
- Northern Alaska Environmental Center
- Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Please read the Internship Job Descriptions below carefully. If you are interested in one (or more!) of the positions and you meet the qualifications, please check out the [Application and Eligibility Requirements](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please email Anna Dalton (grants@alaskaconservation.org).

Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply. We are an equal opportunity employer.

Alaska Center for the Environment

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Grassroots Organizer

Location: Anchorage

Description and Goals of Assignment:

In 2014 the ACE Conservation Intern led the development and implementation of the first ever ACE Organizer Academy. This six week long training program sought to engage new volunteers into the organization and give them the skills to lead their own grassroots organizing campaigns. The project fit perfectly into ACE's model of "engagement organizing", which utilizes an ever expanding network of volunteer activists to reach exponentially more supporters than would otherwise be possible through direct outreach from ACE staff.

The 2014 Organizer Academy was a huge success, with over fifteen initial applicants and 10 graduates from a diverse group of Anchorage residents. The age range was 18 to 65 and comprised of supporters with a wide range of backgrounds and experience doing grassroots organizing and advocacy work. Academy graduates completed a minimum of twelve volunteer hours over the course of the six week training program. This resulted in over one hundred and twenty volunteer hours completed on ACE's priority campaigns during the Academy. Many of the Organizer Academy graduates have continued to volunteer on ACE campaigns since the completion of the program, helping the organization reach a significantly broader pool of supporters on issues related to salmon habitat protection.

In the summer of 2015 ACE seeks to replicate the success of the Organizer Academy by hosting a second training program. The broad goals and objectives of the Organizer Academy will continue to be to identify and train new volunteers as well as help existing volunteers develop the skills to build their own networks of salmon and clean energy supporters. The 2015 goals will also specifically seek to expand on the scale of the previous Organizer Academy, this year graduating at least 15 volunteer organizers from the program.

In addition to leading the Organizer Academy, the Grassroots Organizer Intern will also work directly with ACE Organizers to implement supporter and volunteer identification strategies including tabling at community events, canvassing, conducting 1 on 1 volunteer meetings and hosting events. Through these efforts the Intern will identify over 500 new salmon and clean energy supporters that will be engaged in ACE's advocacy campaigns.

Through these efforts the Grassroots Organizer Intern will help ACE significantly expand our base of supporters and volunteers, allowing us to achieve our campaign specific and organizational grassroots organizing goals that will build power for the entire conservation movement.

Intern Responsibilities:

The ACE Grassroots Organizer Intern will be charged with leading the planning and implementation of the 2nd Annual ACE Organizer Academy. These duties will include

recruiting applicants, planning the weekly trainings, conducting 1 on 1 meetings with participants, ensuring Organizer Academy activities are integrated into ACE's priority campaigns and overall program management.

The internship will also directly support the work of ACE's Community Organizers and will assist in supporter identification and cultivation tactics including tabling at community events, canvassing, conducting 1 on 1 volunteer meetings and hosting campaign events.

Intern Qualifications:

The ACE Grassroots Organizing Intern will possess most of the following attributes & skills:

- A desire to create change through grassroots organizing;
- A positive attitude;
- Willingness to frequently work hours outside the traditional 9-5 work day and occasionally on weekends;
- Some experience advocating for social change through grassroots campaigns;
- Ability to manage multiple projects and deadlines simultaneously;
- Ability to work effectively both as a member of a team as well as independently;
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude and solution based approach in difficult situations;
- Willingness to engage in direct outreach tactics including through phone and door canvasses
- Willingness to conduct volunteer recruitment, host volunteer meetings, plan campaign events, etc.
- Strong verbal, presentation and written communication skills;

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Environmental and Community Health Researcher/Advocate

Location: Anchorage, with field work on St. Lawrence Island

Description and Goals of Assignment:

ACAT presents an opportunity to work with a small, dedicated, diverse and highly skilled staff, scientists, and health professionals in addressing environmental health and justice issues in Alaska. The Environmental and Community Health Researcher/Advocate will work with rural Alaska Native communities in conducting research, organizing, and advocacy to protect health and the environment. The intern will conduct research, synthesize emerging scientific information, and prepare informational materials to inform and engage people in our state, national, and international policy work, while also offering information about safe alternatives to prevent harmful exposures to toxic chemicals.

The intern will assist with planning and implementation of a college-credited community-based research field sampling institute to be held on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska for tribal environmental staff, youth (over 18), community health workers, and other community leaders. The Institute will include classroom training in environmental health as well as field sampling of local streams and wetlands. The intern will participate with staff and other scientists in conducting field research in northwest Alaska about the environmental and health effects of pesticides/contaminants as part of a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) community-based research project. S/he will also work with staff to organize community outreach events (such as ACAT's Rachel Carson Wild and Organic Foods Celebration, grassroots democracy workshops and house parties, as well as tabling at the Alaska Botanical Garden, Salmonstock, and Renewable Energy Fair) and assist with the organic community gardening, Yarducopia, and Anchorage Farmers Market projects—educating and raising awareness about how organic gardening can provide locally grown foods while protecting habitat, watersheds, and wild salmon.

Research opportunities may include: development of a guide on safe fish/traditional foods consumption that includes information from the peer-reviewed and agency literature about known levels of contaminants, as well as how people can make informed decisions as subsistence users and consumers, and ways that people can engage in protecting fish and habitat at the community level and in changing policy. Facts sheets and the guide may also include information about how climate change is exacerbating the mobilization and transport of chemicals and implications for the health of wild foods. This information will be used in our local, state, national, and international policy work to reduce and eliminate the production, use, and release of chemicals that threaten the integrity of wild salmon and other traditional foods, ecosystems and people in Alaska/Arctic.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Work with staff to organize and implement a college-credited community-based environmental health field institute on St. Lawrence Island in the northern Bering Sea—this will include planning, coordinating logistics, and assisting in teaching in the classroom and/or field;
- Conduct environmental sampling (water quality and biological) on St. Lawrence Island as part of a community-based research program, *Protecting the Health of Future Generations*, supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS);
- Assist with grassroots organizing to engage citizens in the environmental health and justice work of Alaska Community Action on Toxics—this will include events organizing, presentations at workshops, and tabling at summer fairs and the Anchorage Farmers Market
- Conduct research using peer-reviewed scientific journals and synthesize information/data concerning the environmental and health effects of contaminants and climate change in the north/Arctic, as well as prepare fact sheets to inform people about ways they can reduce exposures and protect environmental health;
- Work with the ACAT Organic Gardening Coordinator to organize organic gardening workshops, work with volunteers in the community “Yarducopia” gardening program, tend community garden, and prepare compost tea/organic starts for mission-related business at local farmer’s market.

Intern Qualifications:

- Experience in community organizing and outreach;
- Strong science or public health background and experience with community and/or environmental health and justice issues;
- Graduate student preferred (with focus in environmental or public health) or advanced undergraduate;
- Coursework in environmental health, environmental justice, biological sciences, environmental toxicology, or environmental law desirable;
- Experience in organic and community gardening;
- Excellent research, writing and verbal skills to communicate effectively with the public (e.g. comfortable with public speaking, writing of information materials, e-communications and social media);
- Interest and experience in working with people of diverse cultures, particularly Indigenous communities;
- Interest and experience in conducting field sampling, scientific investigations, and/or environmental health research;
- Excellent computer skills and preferably with experience in data base management and data analysis.

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Fisheries Conservation Intern

Location: Anchorage, AK (with opportunities to travel to coastal Alaska, especially Homer and Kenai regions)

Description and Goals of Assignment:

AMCC's summer intern will be an important team player who brings added capacity, energy, skill, and vision to help advance AMCC's mission. AMCC employs an innovative, triple-bottom line approach to fostering small-scale fisheries, community sustainability and long-term conservation in coastal Alaska. The intern will perform a variety of important duties specifically in support of efforts to reduce bycatch and catalyze community-based fishing opportunities. The intern will conduct outreach on behalf of AMCC in coastal Alaska, especially southcentral communities and play a lead role in creating new material that better tells the story of AMCC's work and more effectively engages the public. The position reports to and works with AMCC's Working Waterfronts Program Director.

Intern Responsibilities:

Duties will include:

- Creation of compelling materials on bycatch and community-based fishing opportunities for AMCC's upgraded website. The intern will help envision and develop (with assistance of graphic designer if needed) new tools, such as infographics that tell the story of vast amounts of bycatch and the flight of fishing opportunities from our coastal communities.
- Play a key role in executing summer outreach activities and representing AMCC at events and on the ground in coastal communities, mostly those in southcentral Alaska, but potentially Bristol Bay.
- Assist with getting signatures on AMCC's bycatch sign-on letter, with a goal to collect 500 over the summer.
- Assist with AMCC's Catch of the Season program.
- Develop educational and outreach materials on community-based fisheries and place-based stewardship to be used at events.
- Answer telephones and provide general organizational and administration support as needed during the summer.

Intern Qualifications:

- Have recently completed an undergraduate degree or graduate degree, or be enrolled in a graduate program or undergraduate program at the junior or senior level. Should be pursuing or have obtained a degree in: communications, journalism, marketing, business, environmental studies, marine biology, fisheries or other field related to the position duties. Relevant course work or equivalent work experience will be considered.
- Outstanding communications and creative skills demonstrated via past work; understanding of and experience developing electronic or multi-media content preferred. Strong graphic design skills and grasp of social media tools and capabilities.

- Well-organized and ability to grasp and distill complex material; detail-oriented.
- Outgoing people-person, able to interact effectively and energetically with the public and to effectively and strategically communicate with a variety of individuals.
- Ability to work independently and as a team, and handle responsibility for events and projects.
- Strong creative thinking skills; demonstrated implementation of innovative communications ideas a plus.
- Demonstrated commitment to conservation and progressive causes.
- Willingness to travel within the state and be outdoors for potentially long periods of time during events when conducting outreach.
- Ability to commit to completing the full length of internship.
- Those from, or with ties to, Alaska's coastal communities are encouraged to apply.

Castle Mountain Coalition

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: MineWatch Coordinator

Location: Sutton and Chickaloon, Alaska

Description and Goals of Assignment:

- 1.) Work with CMC Board and staff to organize local volunteers to explore, monitor, and document activities in the proposed mining sites located in Sutton and Chickaloon.
- 2.) Use maps and GPS to add to our knowledge of coalfield geography. Photograph and video the existing environment and document changes brought on by mining.
- 3.) Document mining and exploration activities.
- 4.) Maintain database of observations.
- 5.) Engage local citizens to become actively involved in mining opposition.
- 6.) Raise awareness on the impacts of mining in our communities.

Intern Responsibilities:

Work with CMC Board and staff to organize the MineWatch program; facilitate community trainings; identify and secure volunteers; lead hikes/ mine site visits; collect feedback and documentation; organize and input data collected into database.

Intern Qualifications: Must have good communication and organizational skills, and be comfortable in a small group leadership role. Must be able to hike uneven terrain for several hours at a time. Map reading and GPS skills would be helpful.

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Naturalists Intern

Location: Homer, Alaska

Description and Goals of Assignment:

CACS's goals are to provide the intern with: 1) in-depth knowledge about Alaskan marine and forest ecosystem and local/regional environmental issues, and 2) training and experience in using environmental education skills to inspire and motivate people to preserve and protect Alaska's and their own home environments, 3) contribute to CACS research and education programs by participating in a citizen monitoring project, 4) design and carrying out a project that will benefit CACS research and education programs in some way, 4) Meet and network with other environmental educators in the Kachemak Bay area. 5) Gain understanding about the nature and role of non-profit organizations in Alaskan conservation work.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Receive training and mentorship in local and regional marine and forest ecology and in interpretive, instructional and group management techniques.
- Develop and lead interpretive and natural history hikes and hands-on environmental education activities based out of Peterson Bay Field Station, accessible only by boat.
- Participate in a citizen monitoring program such as coastal monitoring, GLOBE weather and precipitation, plankton monitoring, etc.
- Assist with the Teen EcoAdventure Camp focusing on exploring the effects of climate change to Kachemak Bay and Alaska
- Complete a research or education project in consultation with CACS staff. Examples of past intern projects include: an octopus den survey, educational plant guides, and setting up an intertidal biodiversity invertebrate monitoring program and plankton sampling.
- Network with other Kachemak Bay environmental educators/naturalists, including CACS naturalists at the Wynn Nature Center, Pratt Museum, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Intern Qualifications:

- Academic background in botany and forest ecology and/or marine biology with field courses preferred
- Experience with teaching or interpretation preferred
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; must be comfortable speaking in front of groups of all ages
- Good physical condition and willingness to live in a semi-remote location
- Maturity to live in group situations and work as part of a team

Cook Inletkeeper

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Wild Salmon & Climate Change Intern

Location: Homer, Alaska

Description and Goals of Assignment: This internship will focus on salmon habitat protection in a changing climate. Inletkeeper's field work shows increasing temperatures in local salmon streams, and higher temperatures create stress in fish that make them more vulnerable to pollution, predation and disease. As a result, the goals for this internship will be to enhance the intern's knowledge and skillsets while furthering Inletkeeper's organizational objectives by:

- Understanding and communicating mining impacts on salmon in a changing climate;
- Collecting additional data showing climate change effects on wild salmon;
- Educating Alaskans and tourists about the threats posed to salmon from ocean acidification and climate change;
- Engaging and activating a diverse range of partners around the issues of salmon and climate.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Working to obtain locations and maps of placer and suction dredge mining permits in salmon streams in southcentral Alaska;
- Writing a narrative report discussing placer and suction dredge mining and the implications for wild salmon in a changing climate;
- Creating outreach materials to elevate the threats posed by new coal leases in the Cook Inlet watershed;
- Conducting public outreach on the commercial and recreational fishing docks around Homer on climate change, ocean acidification and the impacts on wild salmon;
- Supporting Inletkeeper's science team with field work and data entry related to climate change monitoring in salmon streams;
- Writing blog posts and newsletter pieces on issues relevant to salmon and climate;
- Attending meetings, workshops and partner meetings as needed.

Intern Qualifications:

- Strong organizational skills and willingness to be flexible on day-to-day basis
- Ability to work well alone and in a team
- Solid writing, research and interpersonal relations skills
- Valid driver's license
- Familiarity with computers (Excel, Word, GIS)

Discovery Southeast

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Outdoor Youth Educator

Location: Juneau, AK

Description and Goals of Assignment:

The Natural Science Educator will spend the majority of their time in the field leading elementary age children as they explore nature. This is part of Discovery Southeast's hands-on environmental education summer camp, Outdoor Explorers. The children are ages 7-12, and in groups of roughly 12 per week. The adventure-full, week-long day camp introduces children to Juneau's natural areas through outdoor exploration, natural history, science based education, arts, and environmental education games and activities. We provide children an open format that allows for open exploration on their part, while still providing structure to meet the camp's goals. Interns will develop teaching, group, and leadership skills, as well as knowledge of local areas, flora, and fauna in one of the most gorgeous, geographically interesting areas imaginable. Interns receive training and experience in inquiry based, hands-on field leadership as well as Southeast Alaska natural history. The intern is also responsible for some coordination and administration of the OE program and reports to the Executive or Program Director while working closely with a lead naturalist and other program support staff.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Assist with the planning, coordinating, and leadership of summer outdoor day-camps
- Prepare lessons and activities that focus on outdoor skills, natural history, and connections between nature and science-based principles
- Emphasize safety, risk management, good judgment, positive group interaction, and personal leadership
- Perform some administrative tasks in support of the Outdoor Explorers summer day camp program such as helping with registrations and communication with participant's parents
- Assist on a limited basis with other aspects of non-profit management, such as fundraising, thanking supporters, and event planning.
- Assist with driving a 15 passenger van upon approval. (Not required).

Intern Qualifications:

- Experience with children, particularly experience in elementary or outdoor education;
- Experience outdoors, such as guiding, backcountry travel, or natural history interpretation;
- Genuine interest in our goal of providing children formative experiences outdoors and a strong connection with nature.

Kenai Watershed Forum

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Stream Watch Intern

Location: The KWF office is located in Soldotna. However the position will encompass a large portion of the Kenai Peninsula including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Kasilof and Cooper Landing.

Description and Goals of Assignment: The internship provides an opportunity to learn about ecological restoration efforts while facilitating environmental education on the Kenai Peninsula through the Stream Watch program. Stream Watch was founded in 1994 and continues to be an important river protection presence on local waters. Through peer-to-peer education Stream Watch volunteers are trained to share information on Leave No Trace, fishing regulations, bear safety and river protection at popular Kenai Peninsula fishing sites.

The Stream Watch Intern will have the opportunity to develop and implement river protection projects via volunteers as well as train, engage and support volunteers while educating the public and enjoying the scenic beauty of the Kenai Peninsula. This position will spend approximately 65% of the time in the field with most of that time working directly with the public. The main goal of this position is to increase public knowledge on river protection issues on the Kenai Peninsula.

The Stream Watch Intern will focus on education, outreach and on-the-ground salmon habitat protection projects on the Kenai, Kasilof and Russian Rivers from May/June through August/September.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Provide effective on-river education to the general public to increase awareness of salmon habitat, site-specific rules and regulations and Leave No Trace principles (45%)
- Assist with the recruitment, training and support of education volunteers to increase program breadth and effectiveness across designated Kenai Peninsula sites (35%)
- Assist with the development and implementation of volunteer based river protection projects in conjunction with land managers and supervisory staff (20%)
- Other duties as assigned

Intern Qualifications:

- Background and/or strong interest in environmental education (formal or informal), restoration ecology or natural resource interpretation in an outdoor setting.
- Comfortable being outside in bear country for multiple hours in varied weather and terrain
- Strong interest and ability to effectively work directly with the general public
- Excellent professional communication and interpersonal skills
- Willingness to learn about the program and study/work
- Willingness and flexibility to work weekends and evenings
- Compliance with KWF, program and partner policies and procedures

- Must be able to work outdoors and walk/hike up to 2 miles and have the physical skills necessary to perform restoration activities involving some lifting (50lbs), bending, digging, working with tools, etc.
- Experience in environmental education, volunteer management, customer service and/or natural resource/ cultural interpretation a plus

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: No Road to Ambler Campaign Intern

Direct Supervisor: Clean Water & Mining Program Director (Jill Yordy)

Location: Fairbanks, AK

Description and Goals of Assignment:

The goals of this internship are for the intern to aid the campaign through raising awareness of, and increasing public participation in the road to Ambler Environmental Impact Statement and other associated permitting comment periods. This internship will build skills for grassroots organizing, event organization, and public engagement.

The proposed road to Ambler would be a 220-mile road stretching from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler mining district. The road would cross over 150 streams and rivers, many of which support anadromous fish populations (salmon, sheefish). The purpose of the road is to facilitate development of large-scale hardrock mining. Many of the rural communities in the region that would be impacted by the road oppose the development because of their concerns for environmental and subsistence resource impacts. In general the statewide and national public knows very little about the proposed road and there is a high need to advocate for public involvement.

Intern Responsibilities:

The No Road to Ambler intern will encourage public participation through tabling events, social media efforts, and helping to organize the Brooks Range Benefit Concert. The intern will coordinate all aspects of summer tabling events in Fairbanks including: organizing informational literature and petition/comment opportunities, coordinating staff and volunteer shifts at events, set-up and tear-down of event booths, and data entry following the event. The intern will also take primary responsibility for carrying out the social media elements of the No Road to Ambler campaign during the summer. This includes uploading/managing Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram content for the campaign and monitoring public social media activity about the proposed road to Ambler. Another primary part of the intern's responsibilities will be to assist in finalizing details for a Brooks Range Benefit Concert, which will promote issue awareness and provide a large-scale forum for the public voice on the proposed road to Ambler. All work will be completed under the supervision and guidance of the Clean Water and Mining Program Director.

Intern Qualifications:

- Excellent interpersonal communication
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Passion for conservation
- Proficiency with MS Office
- Outgoing
- Good organization
- Event coordination experience preferred

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Internship Position Description

Intern Job Title: Clean Water Storyteller

Location: Juneau, Alaska

Description and Goals of Assignment: Story telling is an integral part of clean water conservation and sustainable community planning. Without compelling stories to help connect the dots, we can overlook the importance of clean water, sustainable fisheries, and our human connection with them. By connecting clean water to our economic and cultural livelihood in Southeast Alaska, our Inside Passage Waterkeeper program is building a regional identity rooted in the protection of clean water. The Clean Water Storyteller will produce approximately eight to ten 45-60 second videos and supporting materials that creatively and accurately convey the importance of clean water in our daily lives in Southeast Alaska, including our food, our local economy, and our sense of place. The intern will work with the Communications Director to identify needed videos and develop clear story boards for each project. The overall story telling theme is connectivity: our human interconnection with the clean waters of Southeast Alaska, from alpine to shoreline; our sense of place in Southeast Alaska; and our sense of community.

The intern will work as part of our new clean water program: the Inside Passage Waterkeeper. Visit www.insidepassagewaterkeeper.org for more information on this specific program.

Intern Responsibilities:

- Produce eight to ten 45 – 60 second videos that convey the importance of clean water with a special focus on salmon, indigenous cultures, family fishing and subsistence use, and economic stories from the commercial fishing and water tourism sectors.
- Produce a portfolio of still images that convey above themes with a focus on the human connection with clean water
- Work with staff to place work products within strategic campaign communications plans. As time allows, work with staff to create communications materials such as email campaigns, web pages, blog posts, and publications that use the videos and images.
- Work with staff to write and edit 2-4 blog posts placing the intern experience within our broader campaign framework.
- Archive all work products and update SEACC's image and video archive

Intern Qualifications:

- Experience with short video shooting and production required.
- Experience using still image and video editing software required.
- Experience working with identified photographic theme to produce still images that convey theme required.
- Access to personal camera equipment required.
- Experience with graphic design, web development, photo editing, and/or Adobe software preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required.
- Experience with aquatic ecology, marine sciences, fisheries, local economies, cultural connection to place, and/or working landscapes preferred.

- Intern must be experienced and equipped for extended fieldwork in Southeast Alaska including backcountry camping, sleeping on fishing boats, and/or staying with the subjects of video/photography projects.
- Candidates must provide links to online work or portfolio for consideration.