



Community Science Intern/Volunteer - Fall 2021

Gowanus Canal Conservancy is seeking Community Science Interns and/or Volunteers to assist with our Community Science water quality testing program. Each intern/volunteer will work with small groups of middle/high school students (3-5 students) from October 1 - December 10th up to two times per week from 9am - 1pm (days TBD) and will be responsible for helping prep, clean up, and assist in teaching during each 90 minute program. The number of person field trips will be contingent on school field trip policies and the needs of participating teachers.

Program Description

Middle and high school students investigate the Gowanus Canal's water health and measure water quality parameters for dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, turbidity, nitrate, and phosphate in each 90 minute session. Using testing equipment, students collect and analyze data. They discuss New York City's combined sewer overflow (CSO) issue and the role they can play to monitor the health of the Gowanus Canal and other NYC waterways. Alternatively, some students may be engaged in a ribbed mussel habitat project for special trips and outdoor hands-on activities.

Intern/Volunteer Role

- Work with the GCC education team as a teaching assistant for our Community Science program (engage in some middle/high school informal teaching and hands-on water quality testing activities)
- Assist with lesson planning, program preparation, and team reflection meetings
- Opportunities for initiating own project of interest
- Training in water quality testing, site observation tours, Gowanus history, and best teaching practices will be provided
- Interns may assist with a special ribbed mussel habitat pilot project

Experience/Qualifications

- Some experience teaching students in informal, outdoor settings preferred but not required (desire, enthusiasm to learn, and interest is more important than experience)
- Background or some education or demonstrated interest in environmental science or urban ecology
- Enjoys working outside, sometimes in less than ideal weather conditions
- Must be reliable, committed, responsible, and a clear and consistent communicator

Physical Requirements

- In person field trips and activities are performed outdoors in an urban environment. Intern or volunteer will potentially experience adverse weather conditions including heat, cold, rain, and snow
- Requires using water quality testing equipment where carelessness could result in injury; standing or walking for extended periods of time; stooping, bending, kneeling, crouching, lifting, pushing, and/or pulling; use of manual dexterity and fine motor skills
- Requires moderate physical exertion - lifting, pushing, and carrying, etc. up to 20 lbs to set up outdoor classroom environment
- Requires communicating information with co-workers, students, teachers; reading correspondence and/or instructions; writing correspondence and/or reports and curriculum and filling in forms

Schedule

- Part-time, October - December 2021, 5 - 10 hours/week, up to two days/week (days are currently TBD) from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Opportunities for additional involvement in GCC programs, professional development, projects, and events based on interest

Compensation

This is an unpaid position. GCC will work with academic institutions as needed for internship or volunteer credit.

To Apply

Submit your resume and cover letter to education@gowanuscanalconservancy.org. Include information in your application about your schedule and availability. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Selected candidates will be contacted for a video interview conducted on Zoom. Early applications are encouraged. The deadline to apply is September 1, 2021.