



Save the Sound®

Internship Opportunity

Soundkeeper Program: Melissa Schlag Internship for Justice and the Environment

1 Internship to fill in 2021

The Melissa J. Schlag Internship for Justice and the Environment was established in memory of our friend and colleague. She was a champion for justice, equity, and environmental protection, and a dedicated mentor to Save the Sound's interns. The intern position is designed to provide a low- to moderate- income, BIPOC student a paid opportunity to work on matters that protect water quality, conserve threatened lands, push for climate action, or restore critical habitats.

Who We Are

Save the Sound leads environmental action in your region. We protect the Sound, restore its rivers, fight climate change while building resilient communities, and save endangered lands. We do this in many ways, from legislative advocacy and legal action to engineering, environmental monitoring, and hands-on volunteer efforts. For more than 40 years we've been ensuring people can enjoy the healthy, clean, and thriving environment they deserve— today and for generations to come.

Internship Description:

This is a seasonal paid internship – June 1st through August 1st reporting to the Long Island Soundkeeper. The position will be primarily boat based, though there are two program offices located in New Haven, CT and Larchmont, NY available for office related work. Field work will take place along the entire coastline of Long Island Sound with the boat based out of either Clinton Harbor or Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport, or Mamaroneck, NY.

Field work will entail patrolling coastal areas of LIS looking for pollution discharges, reporting dumping, and locating areas in need of clean-up and/or restoration. The Soundkeeper team will investigate pollution reports from citizens, conduct water quality monitoring, give educational presentations to community groups, and assists research projects. The program is dynamic and priorities and activities may change daily.

Additional duties may include partnering with state agencies and marine non-profits on joint research projects.

Desired Qualifications:

We are looking for a highly motivated individual with:

- Excellent organizational skills, experience working with data, and familiarity with Microsoft Excel
- Ability to work independently and prioritize daily tasks to meet program goals
- Strong communications skills
- Ability to work with and coordinate all types of people mixed together in a group setting

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- Science education and a passion for protecting and restoring water quality
- Access to a car and a clean driving record
- Desired experience: water quality monitoring, environmental education and/or operating a motor boat in the Sound are all a plus

Terms and Compensation

This is a full time seasonal internship that provides a stipend of \$3,000 for an average work week of 40 hours/week. The position begins June 1, 2021 and runs through August 27, 2021. This is not an employee position and does not include benefits. Access to a computer will be provided as needed. Reimbursement for work-related travel is provided. Some evening and weekend hours may be required on an as needed basis.

To Apply:

Interested candidates should e-mail a resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references to soundkeeper@savethesound.org with the words "Soundkeeper Intern" in the subject line. Applications will be accepted until internship is filled.

Save the Sound is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit discrimination based on age, color, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other legally protected status in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

We will be in touch to acknowledge receipt of your application and to schedule selected applicants for an interview. Our internship selection process can take from 7 to 10 weeks. You will be informed when the process is complete.

Long Island Soundkeeper Program Background:

The Long Island Soundkeeper Fund began in 1987 founded by Terry Backer and was modelled after the nearby Hudson Riverkeeper. The Long Island Soundkeeper was a founding member of the Waterkeeper Alliance which is now a global water advocacy program operating in over 40 countries with more than 300 member groups. The Long Island Sound program grew from a commercial fishing advocacy group, the CT Coastal Fisherman's Association, angered by poor water quality in the waters they harvested. CFE/ Save the Sound merged Soundkeeper into their organization in 2017. Save the Sound is a regional leader protecting Long Island Sound's shoreline, marine habitat and water quality for more than 30 years, and merged with Connecticut Fund for the Environment in 2004. Linking Soundkeeper's mission of swimmable, drinkable, fishable water with CFE's legal, scientific and policy expertise and Save the Sound's stewardship, restoration, and community outreach capability has further enhanced our reputation for leadership in protecting and restoring the Sound. In 2020, the organization combined under one banner as Save the Sound. We are committed to making every beach and its surrounding waters in the Sound safe for swimming, fishing and wildlife.