



Graduate & Undergraduate Environmental Education Opportunities

TITLE:	Aquatic Invasive Species Resource Educator/Watercraft Inspector (up to 6 positions available)
LOCATION:	Oswego & Jefferson Counties, NY
DURATION:	May 22 - Approximately September 12, 2012
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	ongoing until positions are filled

SUMMARY of POSITION:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Resource Educators/Watercraft Inspectors (REWI) are responsible for public outreach (education) about how to slow/ prevent the spread of AIS primarily in Jefferson and Oswego Counties, NY. These positions will be responsible for conducting watercraft inspections following specific protocol.

REWI will be assigned primary responsibility for select public use locations. Assigned sites may include one or more of the following: Oneida Lake, Oswego Harbor, Little Salmon River, Salmon River, North Pond and Henderson Harbor.

REWI will each develop a media project under the supervision of New York Sea Grant's Coastal Community Development Specialist (CCDS) and the Great Lakes Activities Publicist. Each project will include a newspaper article, public outreach program, and a project summary paper complete with photos. Topics related to AIS, "clean" recreational practices, NYS Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management, etc. can be considered for this project. The Coastal Community Development Specialist has the final determination in topic appropriateness.

REWI are supervised by the CCDS and supervise no other employees; however, supervision of volunteers may be required. REWI will submit weekly reports using the provided template to record daily activities, problems encountered, a summary of weekly duties performed, and metrics from outreach to the CCDS. REWI are required to work all weekends and holidays. One weekend off will be arranged during the season. Successful candidates are expected to wear a uniform (provided) while on duty.

Duties include but are not limited to the following:

1. Conduct one-on-one on site public education, outreach programs, monitor watercraft launch sites & educate assist boat owners with watercraft inspection (removal of AIS), prepare media project, educational materials, press releases and other materials as requested.
2. Educate the public regarding the significance of NY's Great Lakes ecosystems and the threat of the spread of invasive species through discussions, media/handouts, and presentations.
3. Educate the public regarding current AIS topics that threaten critical habitats such as the Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes & Wetlands Area.
4. Conduct informal and formal outreach programs for target audiences of the local community.
5. Participate in special projects as identified by the REWI Program (i.e. clean & safe boat, AIS hand-pulls, event fairs, etc.).
6. Provide support for an existing volunteer network.
7. Monitor human/wildlife usage patterns, ecosystem condition/threats and progress of restoration projects. REWIs report these data in a timely fashion according to prescribed protocols.
8. Attend weekly meetings with other REWIs and the CCDS to coordinate system-wide activities, exchange information, raise issues, and explore solutions to problems.

Knowledge/Skills:

1. Mature personality with excellent interpersonal communication skills. Must have the ability to successfully present information and communicate ideas to a diverse audience, and to react in a positive, proactive manner in confrontational circumstances.
2. Minimum 2 years combined education and experience in environmental education, natural resources management, biology, environmental studies, or a related field preferred. Familiarity with identification/ecology of Lake Ontario's native flora and fauna (including shorebird) and AIS is preferred but not necessary.
3. Ability to meet scheduled project deadlines as well as work independently and responsibly with minimal supervision.
4. Excellent technical writing skills preferred.
5. Ability to accurately collect and summarize data according to established protocol.
6. Willingness to work all weekends and holidays.
7. Valid driver's license. Must provide own transportation to work sites and meeting locations.
8. Ability to perform tasks requiring physical exertion, work outside and traverse up to 5 miles daily in various conditions.
9. Ability to use a small motorboat and canoe preferred.
10. Enthusiasm about protecting Great Lakes ecosystems.

Additional Notes:

Graduate students are encouraged to apply and use this opportunity to conduct their research. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of earning college credit (undergraduate/graduate) while gaining valuable employment experience, please apply.

Hourly Wage: \$12.25/hour; 35 hours/week *

PLEASE SEND COVER LETTER, RESUME, & CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 5 REFERENCES TO:

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****pending funding***