



Heart Lake Program Center  
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Lake Placid, NY  
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## **SUMMER NATURALIST INTERN**

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club) works to protect New York State wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates. Since 1922, the organization has worked to increase access to the backcountry by building trails, conserving natural areas, and developing a stewardship community that supports the ethical and safe use of New York's outdoor spaces. A member, donor, and volunteer-supported organization, ADK reaches across New York through its 27 chapters to inspire people to enjoy the outdoors ethically.

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

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The Summer Naturalist Internship is an excellent opportunity to learn and gain experience creating and conducting natural history programs, promoting responsible recreation and Leave No Trace; and environmental education programs for children and adults.

Intern assumes a variety of responsibilities including: elementary school outreach programming, serving as a summit host on Mt. Jo; developing environmental education and evening programs; public presentations; guided hikes; community outreach; development and maintenance of self-guided trails; managing and staffing the Heart Lake Natural History Museum; and exhibit development. Opportunities for special projects in exhibit design; flora/fauna inventory; interpretation; outdoor recreation; and visitor studies are available during the season.

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

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#### **Interpretive Programs – 30%**

- Lead interpretive walk with participants on a one-mile hike around Heart Lake multiple times per week
- Lead evening programs, including a night hike, campfire program, and evening interpretive talks

#### **Training and Program Development – 20%**

- Take three core training courses: Wilderness First Aid, Certified Interpretive Guide, Leave No Trace Trainer
- Take training on Flora and Fauna of the Adirondacks
- Take training and preparation for Night hike, Campfire and other evening interpretive talks
- Develop an interpretive walk that will be offered throughout the summer
- Design and construct interpretive exhibits at ADK's Nature Museum

#### **Nature Museum Hosting – 20%**

- Actively engage with visitors at the Nature Museum

- Facilitate a wide variety of activities and interpretive messaging focused on responsible recreation and the ecology of the Adirondacks

### **Mt Jo Summit Hosting – 20%**

- Lead a one-way naturalist guided hike up Mt. Jo. Once at the summit, naturalists remain at the summit for the remainder of the day
- Actively engage with hikers delivering Leave No Trace messaging, representing ADK and sharing the ecology of Heart Lake
- Assist with occasional trail maintenance of Mt. Jo

### **Preparation and Special Projects – 10%**

- When not facilitating programming, time is spent on program development and preparation
- Assist the education department with other special projects
- Naturalists will occasionally lead other school and community outreach programming when needed.
- Offer occasional naturalist programming at ADK's other facilities
- Assist with hiker outreach and Leave No Trace Messaging at the High Peaks Information Center

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

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### Basic:

- A passion for outdoor education and a commitment to the mission, values, and vision of the Adirondack Mountain Club
- Full-time student
- Educational background in environmental education/interpretation, natural history, natural sciences or related field.
- Motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and willing to work with people of all ages.
- Passion for responsible recreation, the outdoors and teaching others.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, public speaking and professionalism.
- High level of organizational skills to effectively plan, teach, and administer the diverse demands of the job, and keep detailed records.
- Ability to work both independently and as a team member.
- A strong work ethic and the willingness to take initiative.

### Preferred:

- Previous experience working in education, outdoor recreation, or a nature/visitor center.
- Previous experience working with families with young children
- Familiarity with flora and fauna of the Adirondacks

## **BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION**

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Reports to: Interpretive Manager

Supervises: N/A

Classification: Seasonal

Dates: May 22 - September 5 (or sooner depending on availability)

Salary/Wage: \$300/week stipend

Benefits: Academic credit if requested through an approved academic institution; extensive training and certifications (Wilderness First Aid, Certified Interpretive Guide, Leave No Trace Trainer and more); attend ADK skills workshops free of charge.

Housing: Shared housing in platform canvas tents included at Heart Lake Program Center with three free meals a day.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT**

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As an organization, we appreciate a diverse set of skills and candidates eager and willing to grow and learn with our organization. As such, our job descriptions are general overviews, not a mandatory comprehensive list. If you feel passionate about our efforts and believe that you have the skills and aptitude to succeed in this role, we want to hear from you.

ADK affirms its commitment to equal employment opportunity for all individuals. Decisions about recruiting, hiring, training, promotions, compensation, benefits, and all similar employment matters are made in compliance with all federal, state and local laws and without regard to race, color, religion, gender, ethnic or national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, military status or any other classification protected by federal or state law. Any discrimination in the workplace against persons protected by equal employment opportunity laws is illegal and against policy.