

Internship Announcement

Position: North Sound Waterkeeper Spring and Summer Intern

Duration: 1 April - 30 September (with some flexibility)

Hours: 6-8 hrs/wk minimum with more hours possible.

Lake Surveys: Must be available for 4-6 consecutive hours at least 1 day per week in the summer

Beach Cleanup dates and times: Must be available for some of these cleanups

- 4/22 at 9 am Earth Day
- 5/11 at 11 am Mother's Day
- 6/21 at 9 am International Surfing Day
- 7/5 at 9 am Post 4th of July
- 9/21 at 11 am International Coastal Cleanup
- Summer paddle cleanups dates and times TBD

Type: Unpaid

Background: RE Sources is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization located in Bellingham, WA. Our mission is to promote sustainable communities through science, education, advocacy, and action. RE Sources' North Sound Waterkeeper Team is charged with protecting and restoring the marine and nearshore habitats of the northern Puget Sound region. The North Sound Waterkeeper Team is currently looking for a summer intern to assist with lakes monitoring, beach cleanups, and other research opportunities.

Job Description: RE Sources seeks a motivated intern who will assist in a variety of activities that monitor, restore, and measure our local water ecosystems as well as engage community members. Work will be conducted with RE Sources staff, community members, or independently.

Main Responsibilities:

- **Fresh Lakes Monitoring:** The intern will conduct weekly surveys of Whatcom lakes by canoe or kayak taking basic water quality samples and looking for algal blooms with follow-up sampling as needed. They will enter data and clean up the data set.
- **Beach Cleanups:** The intern will assist the Community Engagement Specialist in setting up, running, and breaking down community beach cleanups. Optional: to organize and carry out an Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) and/or microplastics survey.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Write a summary of the research findings including possible actions to take
- Attend or watch trainings
- Database entry and display
- Attend optional organization meetings/events (e.g. attend What's the Point on June 14th or Fidalgo Bay Day on Sep 13th)

Education benefits:

Interns will gain the following knowledge and/or experience in:

- Proper water sampling and data management protocols
- Water quality equipment maintenance and use
- Local water quality issues including the identification and reporting of hazardous algal blooms
- How to turn data into action through behavior change, policy, and other means.

Required Qualifications:

- Physically fit to carry and load kayaks and canoes onto a car and into the water.
- Comfortable paddling kayaks and/or canoes
- Ability to walk on slippery and unstable surfaces
- Confident and engaging interpersonal skills
- Adventurous attitude
- Ability to work independently and in group settings
- Ability to meet deadlines and pay attention to detail
- Willingness to learn and problem solve.

Desired Qualifications:

- Background/Coursework in Water Quality or Environmental Science
- Driver's License and good driving record
- Kayak, canoe, or other paddling experience

For more information, contact Kirsten McDade, North Sound Waterkeeper kirstenm@re-sources.org or 360 220-0556.