

**Vermont Institute of Natural Science**

*Motivating individuals and communities to care for the environment through education, research, and avian wildlife rehabilitation.*

**Position:** Education Intern

**Location:** VINS Nature Center, Quechee, VT, USA (onsite)

**Summary:** VINS Education Interns deliver live animal and natural history programs at the VINS Nature Center in Quechee, Vermont.

**Reports to:** Director, Onsite & Outreach Programs

**Updated:** January 2024

**Primary Responsibilities:**

* Deliver place-based environmental education programs featuring live animal ambassadors (primarily raptors) to varied audiences at the VINS Nature Center.
* Lead guided tours of the VINS Nature Center and facilitate visitor experiences by interpreting exhibits and answering questions.
* Provide excellent husbandry for ambassador animals including enclosure cleaning, diet preparation, enrichment, and assist with positive reinforcement training.
* Work with other Education teams such as VINS Nature Camp and VINS School Programs to facilitate opportunities for integration.
* Participate in and put together activities for monthly Special Events focused on different natural history themes.
* Complete a term project to create a new resource for the VINS Nature Center and/or educational programming; work with supervisory staff to design the project concept.
* Attend professional development workshops lead by VINS staff to hone skills relevant to environmental education and animal care.
* Work closely alongside Education volunteers in animal husbandry and program presentations.
* Attend VINS staff meetings and participate in organization functions as required.
* Participate in mid-point and final evaluations of internship goals and achievements.
* Work a varied schedule that may include evenings, weekends, and long days.

**Qualifications**

* Bachelor’s Degree or equivalent experience in environmental education or teaching natural history.
* Confidence in delivering dynamic educational presentations to audiences of all ages, aptitudes, and sizes, including large crowds.
* General knowledge of New England natural history and native wildlife (or willingness and initiative to learn).
* Strong attention to detail, work ethic, and personal initiative desired.
* Ability to work well independently and as part of a team.
* Fluent with Microsoft Office suite and Google suite programs.
* Must possess a valid driver’s license.
* Must be able to traverse irregular terrain, and occasionally lift 10 pounds.
* Must be able to see and respond to dangerous situations.
* Must be able to work in hot, cold, and rainy weather conditions.

**Compensation and Work Schedule:**

Term of employment is May 1st, 2024 through October 31st, 2024 (with some flexibility for appropriate candidates.) Compensation is $16.00/hour, paid every two weeks. The regular work week is 40 hours. Work days and schedule will vary according to program offerings.

All VINS staff working directly with children are subject to a thorough background check, including fingerprinting and a criminal record check.

**Apply:** The application deadline is March 15th, 2024. To apply for this position, send a cover letter, resume, and three reference contacts to:

Anna Morris

Director, Onsite & Outreach Programs

amorris@vinsweb.org