



THE SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

WESTERLY LAND TRUST • CALL FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS - 2023

Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation History

The Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation (SNEC) was legally founded in 2016, but its roots go back to the 1970s when Richard A. Grills of Ashaway, Rhode Island acquired controlling interest of the Bradford Dying Association.

Mr. Grills always had an interest in historic preservation. His primary residence in Ashaway, RI, was over 300 years old. Near collapse when he purchased it, Mr. Grills faithfully disassembled and reassembled this historic structure. He also devoted much of his spare time to restoring the many stone walls on his property, rebuilding but maintaining their “old-style” construction.

When Mr. Grills retired, he turned his energies toward environmental conservation. He worked with local environmental agencies and donated hundreds of acres of unspoiled land. These donations became the Grills Preserve in Westerly and The Grills Wildlife Sanctuary in Hopkinton, RI; both areas providing hiking access to these environmentally significant areas on the Pawcatuck River.

At Mr. Grills’ behest, a portion of his estate was used to create the Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation to assist and encourage others to continue work and study in these two areas that he so loved.

Westerly Land Trust Mission and History

The Westerly Land Trust conserves open space, revitalizes culturally significant properties, and provides environmental programs for the enduring benefit of our community.

The Westerly Land Trust, a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1987, operates throughout Westerly to conserve and enhance community resources. Specific programs include the preservation of open space, rehabilitation and redevelopment of established neighborhoods, and the creation of education and recreation opportunities for the public.

The Land Trust’s programs and activities are directed to the protection and enhancement of the environment, agriculture, and water resources as well as the community’s “sense of place.” Westerly is recognized as a place with special charm and attractions which are a source of pride to its residents and a magnet for tourists and new residents. The Westerly Land Trust aims to protect and strengthen that reputation.

Partnership

The Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation has partnered with colleges to encourage experiential learning in environmental conservation by college students. Applying college students, and, in some cases, their faculty partners, will work with the Westerly Land Trust (WLT) as interns to assist the organization with projects and activities in Environmental Conservation and other related tasks. The WLT will be the director of intern activities. Grant amount for the student interns and faculty depend on the actual length of the internships as determined by the WLT



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but is expected to be 20-25 hours per week for ten weeks during the summer of 2023 and will be up to \$5,000. Intern housing is not included. Commuting expenses are not included but a stipend, not to exceed \$500, will be granted to mitigate current increased fuel costs.

Descriptions (two positions available for Summer 2023)

The Westerly Land Trust/SNEC Conservation Programs Intern

This intern will assist with a diverse set of tasks relating to environmental education and land stewardship. This internship will provide exposure and experience to the environmental field and the structure and functionality of a nonprofit organization. The candidate will assist with field trips and educational programming through WLT's *Living Laboratories*, focused on grades K-2 and 3-4. In addition, the intern will be involved in land stewardship activities, property maintenance, community garden upkeep, guided hikes, special events and other related land trust activities.

The Westerly Land Trust/Sustainable Farming Intern

This intern will assist with the two sustainable farms and farmers located at the WLT Barlow Property in Westerly, RI. The intern will participate in a diverse set of tasks relating to sustainable farming, land use and stewardship, and agricultural education. This internship will provide exposure and experience to the field of sustainable agriculture and ethical farming practices, enhancing the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends. The candidate will assist the farmers in all aspects of their farming activities, including planting, watering, weeding, maintenance and harvesting. The intern will also assist WLT with community engagement and education through agricultural education programs, farm tours, and help in the Barlow Farm Stand.

Qualifications

- Minimum of one year of college, with preference to students working towards a degree in environmental science, biology, education, or a related field.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Comfortable working outside
- Comfortable working with a diverse group of people
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Have a valid driver's license



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Application Details:

Application Deadline: 5:00pm EST on Friday March 24, 2023

Award Notification Date: Friday April 21, 2023

Anticipated Internship Term: June 12-August 18, 2023 (flexible start and end dates)

Application must include faculty input.

Applicants must demonstrate interest or experience in Environmental Conservation.

The applicant for the internship must submit the following application materials in PDF or MS Word format:

NOTE: There are TWO internships available. Ensure you are completing the correct one and include experience items that make you most suitable for the chosen position.

- Applicable Westerly Land Trust Internship Application Form.
 - Key Points:
 - Describe major of study in detail if not listed.
 - Re: Professor's Assessment of Performance in Major Area. May attach letter or email from professor.
 - Student's Statement of Experience and Interest: describe your activities and studies in the general area of Environmental Conservation. Include specific experiences that may relate to the specific internship.

NOTE: Applicants may apply for both internship positions, however a separate application must be completed for each one.

NOTE: Recipients must be prepared to complete a concise but comprehensive report to the Foundation at the completion of the project as well as a brief mid-project progress report. Invitations for the Foundation representatives to observe relevant project milestones are required and encouraged.

The applications should be sent first to the SNEC Foundation. Applications will be forwarded to the WLT by SNEC.

NOTE: *Applications received after the deadline will not be considered nor will incomplete applications.*

NOTE: *Questions about the specifics of the internship may be directed to either Dr. Stephen L Jackson, Vice President, Programs and Operations, SNEC, (860)235-8245, sljackson@snecfoundation.org or Jennifer Fusco, Westerly Land Trust, (401)315-2610, jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org.*

After review and approval by your university's staff and faculty please submit your completed application and any supporting documents to: sljackson@snecfoundation.org.