



THE SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

WESTERLY LAND TRUST • CALL FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS - 2025

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 (WLT) conserves open space, revitalizes culturally significant properties, and provides environmental programs for the enduring benefit of our community. Since incorporation in 1987, WLT has permanently protected 33 properties totaling more than 1,800 acres in Westerly and including a variety of landscapes such as forest, wetlands, river frontage, marsh, and farmland.

In 2023, the Board and staff created a strategic plan that will guide our work through 2028. The four main pillars of this plan are: 1.) Protect the land we cherish, 2.) Steward our lands for future generations, 3.) Enhance green space for every neighborhood, and 4.) Nurture lifelong love of nature. Essentially, we strive to strengthen our community through open space.

For more information, please visit westerlylandtrust.org.

SNEC/WLT 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 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.



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Internship Term: 20-25 hours per week for ten weeks (May 22- July 31, 2025)

Award: \$5,600. Stipend includes commuting expenses to mitigate fuel costs.

Descriptions (two positions available for Summer 2025)

WLT/SNEC Conservation Programs Intern

The Conservation Programs Intern (CPI) 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 outdoor field trips focused on grades K-8 and our K-4 summer outdoor adventure series, [Farm Squad](#). In addition, the intern will be involved in land stewardship activities such as property maintenance and community garden upkeep as well as community engagement through guided hikes, special events and other related land trust activities.

For candidate to be considered, **two forms** must be completed

1. [Conservation Programs Internship Application Form](#)
2. [Faculty Recommendation Form](#) (*form must be sent by candidate and completed by faculty*)

WLT/SNEC Sustainable Farming Intern

The Sustainable Farm Intern (SFI) will assist with the two sustainable farms ([Frontier Farm](#) and [Echo Rock Flower Farm](#)) 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 through our agricultural education programs and special events.

For candidate to be considered, **two forms** must be completed

1. [Sustainable Farming Internship Application Form](#)
2. [Faculty Recommendation Form](#) (*form must be sent by candidate and completed by faculty*)

Qualifications

- Minimum of one year of college, for 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
- A reliable means of transportation
- Demonstrated interest or experience in Environmental Conservation



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Application Deadline: 5:00pm EST on Friday February 21, 2025

Award Notification Date: Tuesday March 25, 2025

NOTE:

- For candidate to be considered, at least **two forms** must be completed by deadline
 1. CPI and/or SFI application
 2. Faculty Recommendation (*form must be sent by candidate and completed by faculty*)
- **TWO** internships available
 - Applicants may apply for both internship positions
 - A separate application must be completed for each
 - Ensure you complete the correct application form
- Selected candidates will be required to complete a background check
- SNEC will be invited to observe/ meet with recipients' mid-term and upon completion of internship
- Upon completion of the internship recipients are required to write a summary of their experience and submit to WLT and SNEC
- Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered

Questions about the specifics of the internship may be directed to WLT Conservation Programs Manager, Lauren Barber (401) 315-2610 x1, lbarber@westerlylandtrust.org.