The Squam Conservation Internship

Training the Next Generation of Conservation Professionals

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Ecological Manager

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Director of Recreation
About the SLA

• Established in 1904

• Mission
  – The Squam Lakes Association is a non-profit conservation organization, dedicated to conserving for the public benefit the natural beauty, peaceful character and unique resource values of the lakes and surrounding watershed. We promote the protection, careful use and shared enjoyment of the lakes, mountains, forests, open spaces and wildlife of the Squam Lakes Region.

• Programs
  – Education
  – Recreation
  – Conservation
Squam Lakes and Watershed
Conservation Programs

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Boat Census
- Shoreland photo documentation
- Invasive Plant Management
  - Variable milfoil management
  - Lake Host
  - surveying
Recreation Programs

• Camping
  – 12 campsites
  – Firewood
  – 7 Bathrooms

• Trail maintenance

• Boat rentals

• Programs
  – Hikes
  – Paddles
  – Workshops
Previous Interns

Recreation Interns
- Interns hired through the SCA
- Unpaid
- Housing provided
- Duties
  - Campsites hosts
  - Bathroom cleaning
  - Trail maintenance
- Cons
  - Tasks were not varied

Conservation Interns
- Interns hired locally (scuba certification required)
- Paid
- No housing provided
- Duties
  - included milfoil management
  - Water quality monitoring
  - Other ecological tasks
- Cons
  - Burnout
  - Difficult to find staff
Squam Conservation Internship
Squam Conservation Internship

- Scuba diving certification
- Weed control diver certification
- Lake Host training
- NH Safe Boating certification
- NH Commercial boating license
- Basic first aid & CPR certifications
- Travel stipend
- Weekly food stipend
- Gear and Pro-deals
- Housing
- Live on the lake
# Squam Conservation Internship

## 2012 Squam Conservation Intern Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intern</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intern 1</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>OFF</td>
<td>MILFOIL MGT</td>
<td>MILFOIL MGT</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>CAMPING</td>
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<td>LAKE HOST</td>
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<td>Intern 5</td>
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<td>OTHER</td>
<td>CAMPING</td>
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<td>OFF</td>
<td>LAKE HOST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intern 6</td>
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<td>MILFOIL MGT</td>
<td>CAMPING</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>CAMPING</td>
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<td>OFF</td>
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<td>Intern 7</td>
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<td>MILFOIL MGT</td>
<td>MILFOIL MGT</td>
<td>CAMPING</td>
<td>CAMPING</td>
<td>OFF</td>
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</table>
Milfoil Management

• Hand-pull
• Barrier mats
• DASH unit
• Survey
Camping

• Spend nights on islands
  Campsite host
  – Checking campers in/out
  – Cleaning bathrooms
  – Splitting, bundling & delivering firewood
  – Campsite maintenance

• General lake user information
Trails

- Trail maintenance
  - Removing blow downs
  - Cleaning out water-bars
  - Building rock/wood stairs
  - Hardening tread way
  - Painting blazes
  - Stocking kiosks
  - Bridges/swamp walks
Other-Conservation Duties

- Lake Host
- Boat Census
- Water Quality Monitoring

- Shoreland documentation
- Other Projects
Other-Events

• Annual Meeting
• Speaker Series
• Barn Dances

• Leading hikes
• Leading paddle trips
• Workshops
Other

- Squam Conservation Corps
- School groups
- Support summer camp
- SLA store
- Support SLA staff
This summer was truly the most amazing and rewarding experience of my life so far. I’ve gained invaluable experience and learned a great deal about myself.

~John Deignan, 2012 SCI intern

- A great crew of seven interns
- Removed more than 3600 gallons of variable milfoil from Squam (a record)
- Covered more miles of trails than ever before
- More full coverage at campsites
SCI 2013

• Application period: 1/1-3/17
• We will accept applications for any individual from NHWWC by Monday, March 25
  – http://www.squamlakes.org/squam-conservation-internship-application-form
• Eight 2013 interns will join us May 23
http://www.squamlakes.org/squam-conservation-internship-application-form