



**NATURAL AREAS CONSERVANCY**  
**High School Program Intern - Staten Island**  
**Job Announcement**

**ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

Through its visionary leadership and high impact staff, the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) champions urban natural areas in New York City and across the nation through innovative research, partnerships, and advocacy. We increase the health and resilience of urban forests and wetlands, catalyze connections between people and nature, and strengthen the environmental workforce.

Started in 2012, the Natural Areas Conservancy is the first park conservancy dedicated exclusively to New York City's natural areas—20,000 acres across all five boroughs. Since 2019, we have also worked on a national scale, leading a network of representatives from cities across the U.S. to strengthen research, information sharing, and communication efforts to enhance the field of urban forest management.

We want all people to feel welcomed, inspired by, and connected to the natural world.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Since 2022, the NAC has run a paid urban ecology internship program for local high school students to use the framework of science identity to promote environmental stewardship among NYC youth. Over the course of six weeks, high school interns will become familiar with flora and fauna identification, field ecology, natural areas management and stewardship, and the scientific method through several mentored monitoring and restoration projects. Interns also have the opportunity to participate in professional development training in public speaking and resume building. With the success of the program expansion to Staten Island in 2024, this year will continue programming out of [the Greenbelt Nature Center](#) (GNC). In addition to a summer research experience based out of the GNC, high school interns can expect collaborative stewardship days and field trips to the following partner organizations: [The Freshkills Park Alliance](#) and [The Greenbelt Native Plant Center](#).

**POSITION OVERVIEW**

Starting in early 2025 (February - May) interns can look forward to virtual professional development sessions once a week that will focus on college & career readiness. The High School Program Intern will work under supervision of the NAC and Greenbelt Nature Center staff. During this six week summer internship, the intern will meet four days a week to gain skills such as navigating natural areas, native and non-native flora and fauna identification, field ecological data collection and analysis, natural areas stewardship, and professional development skills (science communication, networking, college readiness). Over the summer, interns will use these skills to collect data in the Staten Island Greenbelt, pursue a research question of interest, and create a scientific poster that will be presented at an end of summer symposium as a part of the [New York City Science Research Mentorship Consortium](#). This position will be 90% in person, field based and 10% remote based. Ideal candidates will have an interest in nature, working outdoors through hands-on field work, and learning introductory environmental science and ecology.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Participate in [City Parks Foundation](#) professional development training in public speaking, networking,



resume building, and college & career readiness starting in February 2025 through May 2025

- Participate in [Irondale's](#) public speaking and science communication workshops in Summer 2025
- Learn about how the NAC and NYC Parks collect data to understand the health of forests and wetlands, the importance of stewardship and local environmental organization doing this work
- Become familiar with flora and fauna identification, introductory forest and wetland ecology
- Engage with ecosystems in the Staten Island Greenbelt through scientific inquiry, ecological monitoring, and restoration projects
- Design and conduct their own research project from ecological data collected over the course of the program
- Connect with NAC and NYC Parks Staff, as well as college students participating in the NAC's City University of New York (CUNY) Internship Program
- Present your research project to members of the public during the NYC Science Research Mentorship Consortium's end of summer Symposium, August 14th, 2025

#### REQUIRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS

- Will be enrolled in a Staten Island public school within commuting distance (1 hour) of [The Greenbelt Nature Center](#) in Fall 2025, and will be rising juniors or seniors in the Summer 2025
- Live in Staten Island, within commuting distance (1 hour max) of [The Greenbelt Nature Center](#)
- Ability to maintain a positive, collaborative attitude during hot (and probably buggy) days in natural areas and in variable weather conditions
- Strong interest in science research, caring for NYC's natural areas and working outdoors
- Ability and motivation to work independently
- Computer access with reliable network connection and camera for occasional remote meetings
- Ability to arrive in a timely manner to multiple work-sites (in Staten Island and Manhattan) and to communicate with program lead on attendance and progress
- Commit to participating in the program from July 7th - August 15th, 2024
- Attending New York City Science Research Consortium Workshops (June 6th), Colloquium (July 11th) and Consortium poster presentation on August 14th, 2025

#### JOB LOCATION:

The High School Intern will report to [the Greenbelt Nature Center](#), Staten Island on in-person days and occasionally virtually on remote days.

#### COMPENSATION/BENEFITS

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) will be providing payment for this position at 25 hours, with \$16.00 USD per hour, per week for 6 weeks, 4 days a week, from July 7, 2025 through August 15, 2025.

If you are interested in being a part of this program, consider joining our in-person recruitment event on January 26th, 2025. The event will be held from 10AM to 1PM at [the Greenbelt Nature Center](#), [RSVP here](#). If you have any questions about this position, please reach out to Naiyiri Blu Brooker at [naiyiri.brooker@naturalareasnyc.org](mailto:naiyiri.brooker@naturalareasnyc.org)