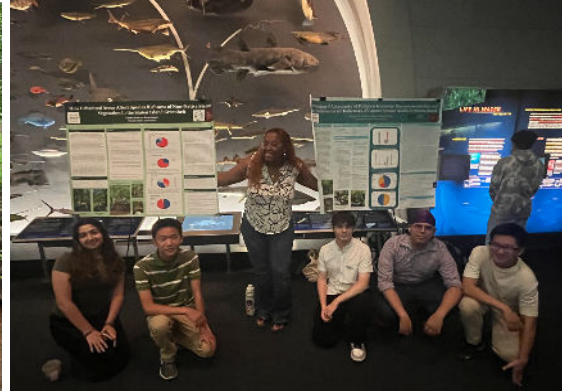




NATURAL AREAS CONSERVANCY (NAC) STUDENT URBAN NATURE (SUN) HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The NAC hosts a paid urban ecology program for local high school students using the framework of science identity to promote environmental stewardship among NYC youth. With hubs in Forest Park, Queens and the Greenbelt in Staten Island, our place-based model connects participants to nearby natural areas to learn more about the importance of healthy forests, wetlands and trails. Alongside peers, high schoolers will conduct research that will add to the work of the NAC, NYC Parks and partnership organizations in these areas. Ultimately, participants will grow skills such as: urban ecology research, navigating outdoors, and environmental health monitoring techniques. Students post program feel more confident navigating STEM spaces in college and feel more informed to make early career decisions.



Over the course of our program, high school interns will:

- Learn about how the NAC and NYC Parks collect data to understand the health of forests and wetlands
- Become familiar with flora and fauna identification along with introductory forest and wetland ecology
- Engage with urban ecosystems at program locations through scientific inquiry, monitoring, and restoration projects
- Conduct their own research project from ecological data collected over the course of the program summer
- Participate in varied professional development trainings on public speaking, networking, and resume building
- Receive mentorship from NAC, NYC Parks, as well as current and previous seasonal staff participating in the NAC's Urban N.E.S.T. (Nature, Ecology, and Stewardship Training) Internship and Fellowship Programs

Duration, Delivery and Location

15 weeks of virtual professional development sessions between Feb-May (2 hrs a week) followed by: Six weeks of in-person programming four days a week (Tues - Fri), 24 hours /week (9 am - 4 pm; includes 1 hour lunch break) between July and August - limited absences allowable. Our program has two locations based in Queens and Staten Island, with students in each borough reporting to the following locations during the summer session:

- Forest Park, Queens - [Oak Ridge \(1 Forest Park Way, Woodhaven, NY, 11421\)](https://www.naturalareasnyc.org/locations/forest-park)
- The Greenbelt, Staten Island - [Greenbelt Nature Center \(700 Rockland Ave, Staten Island, NY 10314\)](https://www.naturalareasnyc.org/locations/greenbelt)

Eligibility

- Enrolled in a NYC high school in the fall of the program year, and will be 16 years old by July 1st of program year
- Strong interest in and positive attitude about science research and nature, caring for New York City's forests and parks, working outdoors and growing independently and as a team
- As attendance is mandatory, students interested in either the Forest Park or Staten Island program locations must live no more than a one hour commute away from the program site, with priority given to students living in the surrounding community of each program site

Compensation:

Students will be paid through NYC's Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) *2024 wage was \$16.50/hr

Do you have questions or want to learn more about upcoming recruitment opportunities?
Check out our website: [naturalareasnyc.org](https://www.naturalareasnyc.org) OR email info@naturalareasnyc.org.