



MARINE DEBRIS INTERNSHIP **Summer 2022 Announcement**

The **Marine Debris Intern** will help address environmental impacts from pollution. This full-time internship brings together interests in environmental education, science, public policy, and citizen action. The Marine Debris intern will provide programmatic support for the Corporate Beach Sweeps (taking place at Sandy Hook) and the Beach Sweeps. The intern will also support policy initiatives by focusing on a research question related to the implementation of the single-use waste reduction law, and/or the recycled content law. This intern will work most closely with the Watershed Program Manager; the research will be developed in consultation with the Policy Team and Staff Scientist.

Specific Responsibilities

Beach Sweeps

- Assist with management of Spring Beach Sweeps data (e.g., data entry, digital archiving)
- Organize and inventory Beach Sweeps supplies
- Assist with planning for the Fall Beach Sweeps, which may include supply preparation, outreach to towns, and Beach Captains
- Coordinate with Communications & Events Coordinator to develop “DIY Beach Sweep” video

Corporate Sweeps

- Organize logistics of Corporate Beach Sweeps, including lunch order, transportation, refreshments, supply inventory, and scouting cleanup locations
- Assist with Corporate Beach Sweeps by helping with setup and breakdown, welcoming volunteers, providing educational overview as needed, running games/activities, engaging with volunteers, etc.
- Compile data and photos after each Sweep and share data report and photos with each corporate partner
- Create pre- and post-cleanup survey to gauge behavioral change in participants, and to provide companies with insightful information
- Compile data for Corporate Beach Sweeps Annual Report, including pre- and post-survey data from participants
- Research and produce a report on corporate sustainability practices of recent corporate partners

Research Project (Potential Topic)

- With the single-use waste reduction law going into effect on May 4, 2022, polystyrene food takeout containers will be banned. There are a number of alternatives available, which may be plastic (1, 2, or 5), or products labelled as “compostable” or “biodegradable.” The intern could investigate the transition away from polystyrene food takeout containers to these alternative products, and how these alternative products will be handled in the waste stream in NJ.

Qualifications

- Pursuing degree in Life Sciences/Physical Sciences or other relevant field
- Comfortable conducting field work, possibly in adverse conditions (e.g., heat, rain)
- Experience with data entry, analysis and management
- Experience conducting research
- Proficient in Excel and other MS products
- Familiarity with GIS and/or StoryMaps a plus
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail

By the end of the internship, the Marine Debris Intern will have...

- ✓ Conducted and coordinated a Citizen Science program, and managed volunteers
- ✓ Reduced marine pollution and educated hundreds of volunteers about marine debris
- ✓ Developed skills in community outreach and organization, project coordination, data management and analysis
- ✓ Produced a Corporate Beach Sweeps Report, which is crucial to the continuation of the program and provides professional writing experience. Also produced individual corporate reports, behavior surveys and report on corporate sustainability practices.

General Program Coordination

- Represent COA in a positive, professional and friendly manner
- Maintain focus and message on pollution prevention
- Stay conversant and current on COA priorities and programs
- Assist with updating relevant COA materials, fact sheets, and write monthly newsletter articles
- Be flexible to help on any project at any time, as needed

Time and Location Requirements

The summer internship is a full-time position and is generally located at COA's office in Long Branch, NJ. **It is essential to the success of the program and the overall internship experience that the applicant lives within close proximity to the Long Branch office to sustain daily commuting.** No housing or transportation is provided. Official office hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday – Friday, and sometimes longer. Attendance at some evening and/or weekend meetings and/or events may be necessary. Office protocols will adhere to all NJ and CDC guidelines, and COA's office status; applicants must be fully vaccinated.

Business casual attire is expected and can vary depending on activities. Monthly stipend and travel expenses (excluding commuting) are paid. College credit (arranged by the student with the university/college) is available. Start date is as early in May as possible and end date is as late in August as possible.

Interested applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm and basic knowledge of environmental issues, organizational and communication skills, creativity, and willingness to work hard, as well as live within close proximity to the COA office. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. **To apply, send a cover letter including local address, resume, writing sample, and a list of 3 references with affiliations and contact information to: Projects@CleanOceanAction.org with "Marine Debris Internship_ YOUR NAME" as the subject line.**

About COA

Clean Ocean Action is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to protecting marine water quality in the New York Bight (those waters between Montauk Point, NY, and Cape May, NJ, and to the continental shelf). COA is a broad-based coalition of over 115 active boating, business, community, conservation, diving, environmental, fishing, religious, service, student, surfing, and women's groups. COA identifies sources of pollution and takes actions to stop them using research, education, and citizen action. For more information about COA visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.

COA is committed to providing an environment of mutual respect where equal employment opportunities are available to all applicants and crew members without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.