



Internship Information 2021

Location: Lake Tahoe, CA

Opportunity Title: Data Collector and Litter Analyst

Company Name: Clean Up The Lake 501(c)3

Opportunity Type: Data collection, litter categorization

Clean Up The Lake is a local Tahoe 501(c)3 non profit whose mission is to fight back against plastic and all forms of pollution in our global environment, both on land and under the surface, starting with Lake Tahoe. Beginning in May we will be embarking on Lake Tahoe's first SCUBA clean up, covering the entire 72 mile subsurface shoreline.

To increase the impact of litter removal we will be categorizing and collecting data on every single piece of litter that we remove from the lake. Our internship program will focus on assisting us with categorizing and collecting this litter data. The collection of this data will be publicly available to the Tahoe Basin community, including local and state government, and private and non-profit organizations. The data can provide for use in public education, regional planning and developing waste management strategies. Our goal is to contribute to litter mitigation in the Lake Tahoe basin for years to come.

Sessions: There will be three sessions, each lasting ten weeks. This commitment will require that you attend at least one categorization day each week. There may be opportunities for extra volunteer hours throughout the session. Interns will be required to coordinate their own transportation to and from each categorization day. Notice that location areas will change each session. We will be identifying a day of the week which works best for our selected interns to meet each week.

Session 1: Week of April 29th-July 1st

Sorting location: South Lake Tahoe

Session 2: Week of July 1st-Sept 2nd

Sorting location: North Lake Tahoe

Session 3: Week of Sept 2nd-Nov 4th

Sorting location(s): Half on West Shore, Half in South Lake Tahoe

We are looking for interns with the following qualities:

- Passion for the preservation of Lake Tahoe
- Punctuality and reliability
- Attention to detail
- Interest in data collection and litter analysis
- Strong verbal communication skills
- Strong recording skills
- Ability to work with a diverse group of people
- Ability to stay on task and follow protocols
- Interest in working outdoors
- Flexibility with time as some weeks there may be more trash to be sorted then others or rescheduling due to weather
- Must work well in team environments
- Must be okay with sorting through litter

Minimum Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled, and in good standing, in a post-secondary education and/or technical certificate program in a field related to the work done in the project (Env. Science, Data and Statistics)
- Minimum of a 2.0 GPA strongly preferred
- Ability to wear gloves for extended periods of time
- Required to wear pants and close toed shoes and be outdoors during the summer
- Must abide by COVID 19 protocols, wearing a mask and social distancing
- Ability to lift heavy items (at least 50 pounds)
- Self sufficient transportation

Typical Duties:

All interns will participate in the Litter Categorization process which includes wearing gloves and sorting through litter that has been pulled out of the lake. Our categorization process is adapted from the United Nations Environmental Programme categorization standard where items are separated based on material and use type. Once the litter has been properly separated and sorted each intern will be assigned a specific role. The group leader will be responsible for making sure that items are placed in the correct category, taking photos of each category, downloading and organizing them into the appropriate drive folder. The weigher will be responsible for accurately weighing each category and communicating to the recorder. The recorder accounts for the accurate weights of each category and the item counts of each category, recording them both on paper and in Wildnote survey form. Throughout the session each intern will have the opportunity to try each of the roles. All interns will participate in set up and clean up each day.

Each intern will have the opportunity to take a closer look at data recorded throughout the session. Every two weeks a new intern will be assigned to data management by exporting, organizing and checking the data for errors. The intern will receive support through this process and a report template will be provided which will encourage critical thinking and further understanding of litter categorization data collected.

Application Instructions: Application will be accepted from March 16th- March 31st. We will be scheduling interviews the week of April 5th. The first session begins the week of April 29th.

To apply, fill out the CUTL Internship google form application. You will be asked to upload a photo/document outlining your class schedule and a cover letter expressing your interest in this position, what you hope to learn and what you will bring to the project.

Please note: Interns may apply for more than one session. We are currently only selecting interns for our first session. If you are interested in the other sessions we encourage you to apply but please know that your application will not be reviewed until it gets closer to the session you are interested in. Applications for session 2 will be reviewed the first week of June. Applications for session 2 will be reviewed the first week of August. More information about these sessions will be released as the dates approach.

For more information please email: hannah@cleanupthelake.org or sadye@cleanupthelake.org