



## ***THE SOUTHEASTERN NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATION***

MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM • CALL FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS - 2025

### **Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation History**

The Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation (SNEC) was established in December 2016 by the Grills and Jackson families. Many members of the Grills family worked at the Bradford Dying Association (BDA) in the Bradford section of Westerly, RI since the beginning of the 20th century. When the company went bankrupt in the 70's, Mr. Richard Grills, who started there as a machine attendant but by then had become the plant manager, partnered with the former owner's son to restart the company. Together, they would run the mill for the next twenty-five years, employing hundreds and positively impacting the economy of the Greater-Westerly area.

When Mr. Grills retired, he turned his energies toward environmental conservation. He worked with local environmental agencies and donated hundreds of acres of unspoiled land. These donations became the Grills Preserve in Westerly and The Grills Wildlife Sanctuary in Hopkinton, RI; both areas providing hiking access to these environmentally significant areas on the Pawcatuck River.

When BDA ultimately ended operation, a portion of the proceeds were used to establish Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to support students in higher education pursuing studies in Environmental Conservation and Historic Preservation.

### **Partnership**

The Southeastern New England Educational and Charitable Foundation supports college students to encourage experiential learning in environmental conservation and historic preservation. The successful applicant will work with the Mystic Seaport Museum (MSM) as an intern to assist the Museum with projects and activities focused on archival processing and historic preservation. The Museum will be the director of intern activities and stipend disbursement. This is a full-time internship that will run from June 2 – August 8, 2025. The intern should expect to work onsite at Mystic Seaport Museum for 35 hours/week and should expect to work at least one weekend day. The intern will receive a stipend for their work.



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**Project:**

The 19-acre campus of Mystic Seaport Museum features a diverse range of buildings, from historic structures to modern constructions. The “village” area of campus includes a mix of buildings: historic buildings moved from other locations, buildings that remain in their original locations but have been repurposed, and purpose-built structures. Many of the village buildings were relocated to the Museum between the 1940s and 1970s to provide a contextual backdrop for the historic vessels in the collection, most notably the whaleship *Charles W. Morgan*. The documentation of these buildings – known as the Historic Building Files – will become increasingly important as the Museum approaches its centennial in 2029. This internship project will focus on making this collection more accessible for use in upcoming centennial projects, events, and research inquiries.

The 2025 SNEC Summer Historic Preservation Intern will spend three days a week at the Museum's Collections and Research Center, focusing on the consolidation, processing, and potential digitization of these files, as well as creating a comprehensive finding aid. This work will involve organizing files from two different locations and collaborating with staff across multiple departments. Additionally, the intern will have the opportunity to contribute to the Museum's commemoration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial, exploring the history of the Museum's buildings as they appeared in 1876 and 1976.

The remaining two days/week, the intern will work with the Museum's Interpretation Department, interacting with visitors across campus. This work will allow the intern to better understand the evolution and use of the buildings represented in the archival files, and their current significance for staff, visitors, and volunteers to the Museum. Projects with the Interpretation Department may include interpreting Museum exhibits, leading family activities or public tours, researching and developing new content for tours and talks, or other duties depending on Department needs and Intern interests.

The intern will also join the wider cohort of Mystic Seaport Museum Summer Interns. As a cohort, interns will participate in common teambuilding activities, professional development sessions, and discussion seminars around emergent topics in the field of public humanities and engagement.

This internship will benefit upper-level undergraduates with an interest in multiple disciplines from science to the humanities.



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**Application Details:**

Application Deadline (to SNEC): 5:00pm EST on Friday, March 7, 2025.

Award Notification Date: Friday April 18, 2025.

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Applicants must be a permanent resident of, or attend a college/university located in, Rhode Island or New London County, CT
- Applicants must be a currently enrolled sophomore, junior, or senior in college/university, with a major/concentration in Architecture, Biology, Cultural and Historic Preservation, Environmental Biology, or an equivalent field
- A GPA above 2.5
- Demonstrated experience with - or interest in - interacting with members of the public in formal and informal settings
- Demonstrated experience with - or interest in - archival work
- Academic or professional interest in historic preservation or historic architecture

The applicant for the internship must submit the following application materials in PDF or MS Word format:

- Mystic Seaport Museum Internship Application Form.
- Student's Statement of Experience and Interest: Why do you want to participate in this internship? What experiences, studies, and perspectives make you a strong candidate for this internship? How does this internship relate to your personal, academic, or professional goals?
- Resume
- Letters of Recommendation from former employers relevant to this position may be included.

**Note:** Recipients **must** be prepared to complete a concise but comprehensive report to the SNEC Foundation on the completion of the project and a brief mid-project progress report. Invitations for the Foundation representatives to observe relevant project milestones are required and encouraged.

The application should be sent first to the SNEC Foundation.

Applications meeting requirements will be forwarded to the MSM by SNEC.



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***NOTE: Applications received after the deadline will NOT be considered nor will incomplete applications. Neither will be acknowledged.***

***NOTE: Questions about the specifics of the internship may be directed to either Dr. Stephen L Jackson, Vice President of Operations & Programs, SNEC, (860)235-8245, [sljackson@snecfoundation.org](mailto:sljackson@snecfoundation.org) or Bridget DeLaney-Hall, Mystic Seaport Museum, 860-572-5363, [internships@mysticseaport.org](mailto:internships@mysticseaport.org).***

After completion submit your completed application and any supporting documents to:

[sljackson@snecfoundation.org](mailto:sljackson@snecfoundation.org)