

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

MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM • CALL FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS - 2026

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 that provide hiking access to 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 environmental history and conservation. The Museum will be the director of intern activities and stipend disbursement. This is a full-time internship that will run from June 8 – August 14, 2026. 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: Science Intern

Mystic Seaport Museum is dedicated to the collection and preservation of American maritime history and culture. The Museum collections include an array of materials such as fine, folk, and decorative arts, navigating instruments, tools, ship's plans, printed and manuscript material, photography, ship models, ship carvings, and small craft. Within these categories, one will find a diverse array of specimens and objects crafted from plant and animal materials. This internship project will concentrate on the identification and research of these pieces.

The 2026 SNEC Summer Science Intern will work 1.5-2 days/week at the Museum's Collections and Research Center, focusing on the documentation of objects with scientific relevance, specifically those in the zoological and botanical categories. Key responsibilities include identifying, describing, and documenting specimens; identifying additional objects in the Museum's General Collections that overlap into the biological or botanical categories; assisting Collections staff in assessing the condition of specimens and identifying those that need rehousing or conservation; and conducting independent research on these objects to highlight their stories and significance.

Two days/week the intern will work for the Museum's Interpretation Department as a front-line staff member in a formal gallery, a family-activity area, or a historic building, speaking with visitors to share content and help create connections. Interns will be matched with two specific locations based on their interests, relevant experience, and the Museum needs, with the expectation that their science-related research can be brought into conversations in any of their Interpretation spots.

The intern will also join the wider cohort of Mystic Seaport Museum-hosted summer interns for the final 1-1.5 days/week. 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, as well as attending select offsite field trips to other museums and nonprofits to meet with staff, explore career options, and investigate the types of organizations involved in similar public-facing work.

This internship will benefit upper-level undergraduates with an interest in marine biology, science communication, environmental humanities, scientific analysis, and more.

Application Details:

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Application Deadline (to SNEC): 5:00pm EST on Monday, March 30, 2026.

Award Notification Date on or by Friday, April 17, 2026.

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
- Academic or professional experience in marine biology, environmental science, science communication, or history of science

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

- Internship Application Form
- Student 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 or Krystal Rose, Mystic Seaport Museum, krystal.rose@mysticseaport.org.

After completion, submit your completed application and any supporting documents to: sljackson@snecfoundation.org