NATURE CENTER
AT SHAKER LAKES

# Senior Project/ Internship Information Sheet

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes provides educational opportunities for students in their final quarter of the school year. Most of these opportunities are offered to seniors in May to get hands-on, real-world experiences before they start their college career. The Nature Center has worked with seniors from Beachwood High School, Cleveland Heights-University Heights High School, Hathaway Brown Upper School, Hawken Upper School, Laurel Upper School, Orange High School, and Shaker Heights High School to provide experiences that range from 50 to 150 hours. The total hours are determined by the academic requirements of the school.

To secure an opportunity, students are expected to go through an application process. The best candidates are selected to fill the limited number of slots. The application process includes filling out an online application(www.shakerlakes.org), providing details about their project (school, contact information, requirements, project dates, etc.), providing 2 references, answering a series of essay questions and an interview. The Nature Center would like to provide the best experience that they can for each student, which is based on the information given in the application and interview. The Nature Center works with each student to provide a professional experience with a 25-30 hour work week to meet school requirements. This exploration of a professional career is meant to provide knowledge that the student can apply to their future career paths.

## The Nature Center can provide projects in the following areas:

**For students interested in pursuing a career in education or work with youth…..**

**Education Senior Project– Education Assistants (3 openings)**

Serve as a guide to the natural beauty that surrounds the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Education Assistants help Nature Center Educators conduct outdoor programs for preK-6th grade students and help prepare and maintain class materials. Education Assistants also help care for our live animals (turtles and snakes). Training will be provided, but applicants should be interested in handling both turtles and snakes as part of this responsibility. Activities change regularly, but an example shift could include, hiking, showing 1st graders how to bird watch, and cleaning binoculars to reset the program for the following day. If it's your day to care for animals, you might handle the snake, spot clean the enclosures and feed the turtles before you leave.

**For students interested in pursuing a career related to conservation or environmental studies….**

**Land Management Senior Project- Stewardship Assistants (2 openings)**

Assist in the implementation of our land management plan by removing invasive plant species and planting native species. Responsibilities may include minor trail work, trash pick-up, managing the flower and planting beds around the building and pulling invasive plants. All work is completed under the direction of the Natural Resources Specialist.

**For students interested in pursuing a career related to landscape architecture, building or construction….**

**Facilities Senior Project– Facilities Assistant (1 opening)**

For Students interested in pursuing a career in building or construction as well as providing a pleasing experience for Nature Center guests. Assisting the facilities team involves helping with building projects identified by your supervisor. Pick up trash and/or debris on property, both on-trail and off-trail locations. Assist with minor trail work by inspecting them for any hazardous conditions and making repairs as needed. All work is completed under the direction of the Facilities Director.

# Senior Project/ Internship Cover Sheet

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**Thank you for considering the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes as a site for your Senior Search Project!**
Please complete this page including the essays, an online application and return reference forms to indicate your interest in this program.

**An Orientation Session will be scheduled for all accepted candidates.** You will meet the Nature Center staff in your project area and receive an tour of the Nature Center.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Career Interest/ Academic Major: _____

**SCHOOL INFORMATION:**

School Name: _____

Senior Project Contact: _____ Title: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact E-mail: _____

**SENIOR PROJECT INFORMATION:**
**Desired Project Area:**

- ☐ Stewardship/ Land Management
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Facilities

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____ # of Hours Required: _____

**ESSAY QUESTIONS:**
Please write a 100-250 word essay for each question below. Submit essays with application.

1. Why do you want to do your Senior Project/ Internship at the Nature Center?
2. What 3 skills would you like to get out of the experience?
3. How does this fit into your future career or educational goals?

**YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION INCLUDES:**

- Senior Project Internship Cover Sheet
- Nature Center Volunteer Application (online submission: https://shakerlakes.org/volunteer-application/)
- 2 Completed Reference Forms (online submission: https://www.jotform.com/build/60186339192156 )
- Essays

***Once application materials are returned, a date for an interview will be set.***
***You will be notified of the status of your senior project after the interview.***

## Submit application materials & direct all questions to:

Jeanette Moore Volunteer Coordinator
Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
2600 South Park Boulevard Cleveland, Ohio 44122
216-321-5935 x237 or moore@shakerlakes.org
www.shakerlakes.org

**For Volunteer Program Use Only:**
**Area:** ☐ STEW ☐ ED ☐ FAC **Date Received:** Application: _____ References: _____ Waiver: _____ Interview: _____