



## Climate Science Communication Internship with Mount Washington Observatory, Appalachian Mountain Club, and Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study

Updated: July 2024

### Education and Experience

Interns should either have completed or be in process with an undergraduate or graduate degree in meteorology, science or climate communications, journalism, science education, or a related discipline.

### About the Position

This unique internship is a collaborative effort between the Mount Washington Observatory (MWOBS), Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), and Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study. Each organization contributes to public understanding of the weather, climate, and ecology of the White Mountains region of New Hampshire. The focus of this internship will be on creating a yearly almanac that effectively communicates changes to the climatology and biology of the White Mountains to a general audience.

This is an immersive internship for 14 weeks, with participants expected to know they will work multiple weeks in a row. Interns will be given one week off per month but may choose to remain in housing from the AMC or MWOBS during this time, or with our partners in Mount Washington Valley where MWOBS has a home share program. Time off will also be given weekly on an ad hoc basis as each organization's work flow and schedules allow.

Candidates will be hired to work collaboratively with a Climate Science Research Intern. Your role will be to write and organize the climate data compiled by your colleague to produce and design a yearly almanac on the climatology of the White Mountains. Part of this work will include coordination with each organization's communications teams to conduct a contest for artists to interpret parts of the almanac and to generate communications products related to it. Please clearly specify in the second two essay questions of your application the name of the internship for which you are applying.

### Each Organization Will Provide

An opportunity at the **Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)** to participate in ongoing research related to climate change in the White Mountains, to provide context for the implications of potential changes in climatology that the almanac and supporting analyses may reveal. Climate-related projects occurring in the autumn or spring season include plant phenology, White Mountain stream water sampling, and snow observations. Candidates will participate in these activities outdoors in varied conditions, often in the backcountry. As noted above, AMC provides staff housing and meals for the position and shared office space for computation and production of communications products.

At **Mount Washington Observatory (MWOBS)** interns will take part in daily operational duties of our summit observation team, help with generating forecasts, aid in education and communications tasks, and work on the production of the almanac. Interns at MWOBS live and work with one of two weekly shifts of MWOBS summit staff, with all meals and food provided. All interns will have a working goal of gaining competency performing daily meteorological observations as well as learning basic rules to coding METAR observations. Opportunities for professional development and career advancement exist with this position.

MWOBS' primary focus is the hourly observations that make up the historical record of the summit station. However, our mission statement highlights three main areas of activity: observation, research, and education. As an intern at MWOBS, your main goals will be directed toward competency in a variety of tasks that help support the mission and make up general summit operations.



Interns will have opportunities to meet virtually and in person with education, communications, and public engagement professionals from the **Hubbard Brook Research Foundation (HBRF)**. HBRF staff lead science education programs, college-level communications workshops, media outreach (classic, digital, social), and high-profile briefings and events for policymakers and other environment decision-makers. Interns will be welcome and encouraged to work with HBRF staff as part of their general professional development and to support their work on the almanac project.

### **Duties**

#### ***Duties of Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Interns***

- Work schedule is 40 hours per week, with some options for flexibility within a pay period to accommodate longer fieldwork days.
- Fieldwork is not the primary focus of this position; occasional fieldwork supports the goal of a broader understanding of climate-relevant patterns and impacts.
- Present information about the project and partners to public audiences at AMC facilities or as opportunities arise (e.g., local meetings/conferences)
- Contribute to social media and outreach activities led by AMC's Marketing & Communications team
- Participate in periodic AMC Communications Team meetings, as shared scheduling allows
- Duties include day hikes in the Appalachians on trails, or into remote Wilderness to collect samples and observe plants
- Experience and comfort with backcountry navigation and working in remote field settings
- Other duties as needed and assigned by a supervisor.

#### ***Duties of Mount Washington Observatory (MWOBS) Interns***

- Planning and completing the annual almanac in collaboration with MWOBS, AMC, and other partner staff.
- Work a full ten-hour work day while on shift, including attending weekly meetings, recording hours and (with staff) setting and revising personal goals.
- Gaining competency performing observations and learning basic rules to coding METAR observations. This will involve a careful study of both the KMWN Station Weather Manual and the FMH-1 as well as shadowing observers.
- Learning the procedure to independently provide MWOBS weather station tours.
- Aiding in Extreme Mount Washington Museum operations including interpretation of exhibits and general interaction with visitors.
- Contributing to the digital and print content produced daily at MWOBS including weekly blog and social media posts. This will include photography and video production to document and publicly communicate field work and highlight a chronology of weather and events at the summit or images of other summit events.
- Participating in frequent discussions with staff from each partner organization to plan and execute science communications outcomes for the almanac.
- Taking part in both map discussions and the recording of forecasts under the tutelage of the summit staff, with an eye toward contributing to the White Mountains Higher Summits and other regional forecasts.
- Helping with making the summit presentable for visitors, guests, and members.
- Exploring the summit, the buildings, and the surrounding mountains and trails.
- Other duties as needed and assigned by a supervisor.



## **Key Responsibilities**

### **Research and Almanac Creation**

- Identify how to present daily scientific data in the almanac, with pull outs of specific indicator metrics or interpretation of specific elements by artists
- Coordinate art competition for almanac production

### **Outreach and Information Dissemination**

- Support AMC and MWOBS outreach and educational efforts for the almanac and identify new partnership opportunities
- Participate in social media efforts directed by each organization's communications staff

### **Forecasting and Scientific Support**

- Interpret and analyze weather data to inform forecasts
- Collaborate with MWOBS staff at shift change meetings and on shift
- Participate in selected fieldwork related to climate change research and monitoring conducted by AMC and partners

### **Community Engagement and Education**

- Develop and present higher summits and valley weather reports to stakeholders
- Participate in the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation's [Young Voices of Science](#) initiative, a series of virtual, expert-led communications workshops for environmental students and early-career researchers

### **Data Management and Analysis**

- Maintain collected meteorological and biological data
- Produce a final, synthesized dataset with metadata for future use by partners

### **Software and Technology**

- Assist/instruct in the use of meteorological software including weather models, Python, and SQL

### **Professional Development**

- Attend professional development with Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study
- Identify other opportunities with MWOBS and/or AMC on research and publications

## **Qualities and Skills**

The below qualities and skills are not required from applicants and many will be taught during the course of the internship. All interested students are encouraged to apply. However, candidates with pre-existing competencies in these areas will be given preference in the application process.

### **General**

- Curious and inquisitive, with a willingness to ask questions. Takes the initiative to help the team when needed, good at problem-solving.
- Ability to be on-call for both day and night shifts.
- Friendly and clear with public requests for help, excellent communication skills.
- Good at observation of surroundings, safety, and the natural environment.
- Able to analyze charts, tables, and data with a focus on synthesizing a report.



- Willing to understand METAR code, know why it is used, and how to code weather conditions.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills for effective interactions with team members and the public.
- Understanding of scientific processes and results.
- Familiarity with software tools relevant to meteorology, including weather modeling software, GIS systems for terrain analysis, or data logging software.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite; graphic design software such as Adobe Creative Suite a plus
- Valid driver's license and personal vehicle (mileage reimbursement provided).
- Experience and comfort with backcountry navigation and working in remote field settings.
- Passion for conservation of the outdoors and commitment to all our organization's missions.

### **Benefits**

All internships are supported by a generous stipend to cover travel and living costs. Payment is spread equally across this 14-week internship. This internship also comes with housing and meals when you are on shift with MWOBS or AMC.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement**

*AMC and MWOBS welcomes all qualified candidates to apply and we invite the full participation of all individuals currently underrepresented in the outdoor community. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals from racially and/or ethnically diverse communities, individuals with disabilities, individuals from LGBTQ+ communities, and individuals who experience intersectionality with one or more of these identities.*

### **AMC's Youth Protection Language**

*AMC and MWOBS has zero tolerance for child abuse or placing children in danger. The AMC requires all employees who work in a program or facility which serves children, disabled persons, or the elderly to have a criminal background record check performed on their name annually with employment contingent upon satisfactory results.*