

## South Slough Reserve Internship Program

*Sponsored by the Oregon State University STEM Hub*

**Title:** Summer Science High School Internship

**Application Deadline:** April 14, 2026

**Summary:** This position will provide an intern with training and experience in the scientific study of estuarine functions, processes, and ecological communities, and a better understanding of the links between watersheds, estuaries, and nearshore marine environments. The intern will gain knowledge in how wetlands function, their ecological importance, and likely responses to climate-related changes.

**Scientific Monitoring:** The intern will assist with wetland data collection at the Reserve. This will include:

- Collecting wetland plant cover and density data
- Collecting data to measure vertical change of wetland surfaces
- Extracting sediment cores to measure sediment accretion rates in wetlands
- Calibrating, deploying and downloading data collection instruments to measure groundwater temperature, salinity, and depth and stream temperature
- Collecting elevation data using high precision GPS and leveling instruments
- Collecting population data on endangered plant species

**Program Support:** The intern will help prepare for field work, clean up following field work, and assist staff members as needed. This may include:

- Packing, carrying, loading, and unloading up to 50 lbs. of gear into a vehicle and between vehicle and research sites
- Work along trails, tide flats, wetlands, and waterways for multiple hours at a time (possibly in windy, wet, sunny, and/or muddy conditions)
- Unload, thoroughly clean and put away gear that has been used in the field
- Interact with and aid other South Slough NERR staff and interns and other partner organizations with their projects

**Benefits to Intern:** The intern will be exposed to lab, office and field settings at the Reserve. Much of the intern's activities will take place in various field settings within the South Slough watershed including marsh, upland bog, mudflat, and forested habitats. Benefits include:

- Expanded knowledge on coastal wetland types, and their function and importance
- Exposure to and increased familiarity with field-based scientific monitoring and research
- Professional networking
- Stipend Award: \$15/hour for up to 150 hours

SOUTH SLOUGH NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

61907 SEVEN DEVILS ROAD, CHARLESTON, OR 97420 | 541-888-5558

**Required Qualifications:** Students entering high school in the fall of 2026, or who are graduating high school in spring/summer 2026 are eligible to apply.

**Desired Skills:** This position is ideal for a person who enjoys the outdoors. Interns should also:

- Follow instructions well and pay close attention to detail
- Be punctual
- Be comfortable interacting with individuals and groups of people
- Have some knowledge of the natural sciences and a willingness to learn
- Read and write at or above an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level

**Time Commitment:** 8-9 weeks @ approximately 15-20 hours/week (varies weekly but typically 2-3 days M-F) for a total of 150 hours.

**Timing:** Start: June 15, 2026, End: mid-August

**Workstation:** South Slough's Estuarine and Coastal Science Lab | 63466 Boat Basin Road, Charleston, OR 97420

**Evaluation:** The intern will be mentored by South Slough's Watershed Monitoring Coordinator who will provide formal and informal feedback to the intern. This relationship allows the student to ask questions and the mentor to make suggestions. A final verbal or written evaluation will be conducted by the intern's mentor with contributions from other staff and volunteers who have worked with the intern.

**Mentor Commitment:** The Reserve Public Involvement Coordinator serves as the liaison for all interns in the South Slough Reserve Internship Program. However, training and monitoring of the interns' daily activities and performance feedback are the responsibility of the intern's mentor (Watershed Monitoring Coordinator). The responsibility of the mentor will be to:

- Provide training in the areas of 1) The importance and function of wetlands 2) Scientific data collection 3) The effects of climate change on coastal ecosystems 4) Program support
- Assign work for the intern to complete (both individually and collaboratively)
- Review the intern's work for accuracy and conformance to agency policies and procedures
- Provide the intern with regular feedback regarding their performance and provide evaluative information to the internship program coordinator upon completion of the program and upon request

**Contact:** To apply go to our website: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/ss/Pages/volunteer.aspx> complete application and submit cover letter and resume. **Questions?** Contact Deborah Rudd, Reserve Public Involvement Coordinator | (541) - 294-9866 | [deborah.rudd@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:deborah.rudd@dsl.oregon.gov)

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