

INDIAN RIVER LAKES CONSERVANCY

Watershed Steward

(40 hrs/wk, 8 weeks total, June-August 2020)

The **Watershed Steward** of the Indian River Lakes Conservancy (IRLC) is a 40 hour per week position from June 29th – August 14th that will support IRLC summer programming with a focus on Project WHIRL (Protectors of Water and Habitat in the Indian River Lakes). The Watershed Steward will directly support the IRLC Watershed Coordinator, and his/her primary role will be to serve as mentor and educator for high school participants in Project WHIRL.

The Watershed Steward will additionally support the implementation of New York State's St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Plan (SLWRP). Through this effort, the Watershed Steward under the direction of the Watershed Coordinator will work with Indian River Lake associations, volunteer land stewardship teams, and high school age students in Project WHIRL to improve our water quality and habitat within the Indian River watershed - a major supporting watershed to the St. Lawrence River in northern New York.

➤ Watershed Steward Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist Watershed Coordinator, Project WHIRL partners and high school teachers with developing curriculums that engage Project WHIRL students for developing and implementing solutions that improve water quality throughout the Indian River Lakes watershed.
Program partners include the Central New York Chapter of Izaak Walton League of America (CNY IWLA), St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM), Paul Smith's College and NYS Parks' Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship (FORCES)
- Support the Project WHIRL program by providing instruction for its three educational tracks – *Aquatic Resource Education, Invasive Species Management and Watershed Management*
- Conduct lake and stream water quality monitoring and ecological community assessment – invertebrates (e.g., plankton surveys), plants, wetlands, fish, wildlife
- Assist with watershed education and outreach (pre-K-12 and community) – develop school curriculum incorporating NYS Science Learning Standards; deliver public presentations; create interpretive signage and trails
- Develop children's nature camp curriculum in coordination with IRLC education committee
- Teach sportfishing and aquatic resource education
- Inform the public about adapting to climate change – higher water temperatures, more/less rainfall, changing lake levels, harmful algal blooms (HABs)
- Inform best management practices – nutrient input reductions, stormwater mitigation
- Survey, inventory and map invasive species (e.g., iMapInvasives) and assist with watercraft inspection and invasive species control projects
- Assist with restoration and research projects, to include working with IRLC land stewardship volunteers in implementing IRLC Conservation Management Plans
- Inform public policy and regulations
- Assist with development of watershed and lake management plans
- Support the SLWRP by working with lake associations, Project WHIRL, and IRLC volunteers by assisting with data collection efforts and identifying threats, mitigation, and remediation opportunities for water quality improvement in five lake management plans
- Develop virtual programming to support project WHIRL in a Social Distancing Environment

➤ **Qualifications**

- Current student or graduate in physical, biological or environmental sciences; environmental education/interpretation; or ecology/environmental science related discipline
- Some knowledge of water resources, geology, plant and wildlife identification, climate change, etc. is preferred
- Ability to physically work outdoors in a variety of terrain and weather conditions
- Ability to develop and implement virtual learning opportunities through Facebook, Webinars, and Social Media
- Ability to work in a team setting and as an individual
- Candidate must be self-motivated, able to initiate projects and tasks, and have good time management and organizational skills
- Candidate must be able to provide their own transportation to and from the Indian River Lakes Conservancy office and work sites on occasion
- Satisfactory background check

- ❖ The IRLC's watershed coordination efforts are focused on enhancing and expanding the scope and reach of the community's understanding and appreciation for the biologically diverse Indian River watershed. Our objective is to synergize the efforts of our project WHIRL program, IRLC volunteers, and concerned community members to improve water quality and habitat throughout the Indian River Watershed by implementing our lake and conservation management plans while developing the next generation of conservation leaders.

❖ **Application Instructions**

Please email cover letter and resume to the executive director no later than **May 11, 2020** at the following email address: jwhuffman@indianriverlakes.org