



Inland Seas
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Great Lakes Education Intern

April 28 - August 15, 2025

Stipend \$500 weekly, housing provided

Position Summary:

We're hiring! ISEA is seeking two individuals for Great Lakes Educator Intern positions, to help with ship and shore programming April 28 - August 15.

While previous sailing experience is not necessary, much of the education programs will be provided onboard our traditionally rigged schooners. Programs can be both day sails around Grand Traverse Bay, as well as multi-day sails to away ports such as Detroit, MI or Duluth, MN.

The ideal candidate is a strong communicator and team player, with enthusiasm for teaching about environmental science and the Great Lakes. **Early career professionals and people looking to transition into environmental education are encouraged to apply.**

Most programs delivered aboard our educational vessels include teaching activities that explore Great Lakes topics including: water quality, food web dynamics, invasive species, forage fish, zooplankton, benthic macroinvertebrates, microplastics and pollution, as well as engineering practices and underwater technologies.

Previous sailing experience is not necessary, though most of the work (teaching, interacting with others) will be conducted from aboard the vessels, both dockside and underway. Room and board is included as part of this internship opportunity, if needed.

Note: ISEA hosts multiple internships concurrently each year (posted at schoolship.org) and several interns work at ISEA throughout the season. This posting describes one such internship position.

Season Details:

Spring (April 28 - June 6): ISEA interns will deliver ISEA "Schoolship" programs based out of Suttons Bay and Traverse City, MI to K-12 school groups. Spring programs occur as 3-hour day-sails and shoreside ROV (remotely operated vehicle) Engineer & Explore. There are typically two of each program per day, Monday through Friday.

Summer (June 7 - August 15): ISEA interns will help deliver custom educational programs to the general public and organized youth groups, with some of these programs taking place at away ports, such as the Straits of Mackinac, Houghton (MI), Duluth (MN), and Detroit (MI). Summer programs include 2- and 3-hour day-sails, as well as the opportunity to live aboard the vessels while at away ports, and can include evenings and weekends.

Primary Responsibilities:

Education

- Aboard the ship and on shore, deliver educational units to students, families, and community groups that emphasize hands-on involvement and relate to Great Lakes topics, including water quality, food web interactions, underwater technologies (ROVs), and maritime culture/history.
- Provide support to education programming, including but not limited to: management of program equipment and materials, assistance with program survey evaluation, and data entry.

Outreach

- Publish a series of blog posts, short videos, and/or other media formats reflecting on your experience and connecting the importance of environmental education as a key tool in conservation efforts.
- Represent ISEA well in the community, to both the public and with our events and partners.

Ship Operations

- Direct passengers in safe behavior aboard the ship at all times.
- Understand and comply with the ship's rules, policies, and Standing Orders.
- Assist with cleaning and general maintenance as needed.

Note: While living aboard the ship, all persons (ISEA staff, interns, and volunteers) are expected to participate in basic daily chores and tasks related to living and working in a small, shared space. These tasks occur before and after the scheduled programs, extending the work day during this time.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Participate in ISEA staff meetings as needed.
- Assist with other activities related to ISEA's educational mission.

ISEA fosters a community of learning. All seasonal employees & interns are encouraged to take on tasks that will help them reach their education and employment goals.

Eligibility:

- *Mature adults 18 years and older;*
- *Some college-level courses completed, 2+ years of college completed is preferred.*

Skills/Prerequisites:

- Enthusiastic about teaching and learning
- Ability to work well with youth and adults
- Willingness to learn and teach new subject material
- Interest in Great Lakes science and environmental issues
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills—written and verbal
- Strong team player
- Ability to work weekends and evenings as needed (summer months)
- Ability and willingness to travel and live aboard the ship 1-10 days (summer months)
- Not subject to severe motion-sickness
- Ability to work in turbulent waters and challenging weather conditions

Term:

April 28 through August 15, flexible end date (*approximately 15 weeks*)

Program training begins immediately, followed by Spring programming at the beginning of May. Summer programming lasts until early August.

Expectations:

Interns are expected to be available for approximately 40 hours per week for ISEA-related work. In the spring season interns might work closer to 40 hours per week, while in the summer season, especially when working at away ports living aboard the ship, interns might work closer to 50 hours per week. It is important to note that during the summer travel season, neither internet access nor indoor work spaces can be guaranteed. It is recommended that interns plan accordingly and limit any external commitments during this period.

Compensation:

A stipend of \$500 per week, as well as housing and meals.

Room & Board:

On-site, shared dormitory housing is reserved and available for non-local candidates at our Suttons Bay campus. Aboard the ship, it is customary for lunch to be provided on work days, and for all meals to be provided on overnight transits and when working at away ports (summer). When delivering programs outside of the Grand Traverse Bay area, interns are expected to live aboard the schooner in a shared living space with other ISEA staff and volunteers.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with preference given to those applying by end-of-day **February 9, 2025**.

*Apply by email with **resume** and **letter of interest**:*

Chris Symons, Education Coordinator - csymons@schoolship.org