

WNY PRISM Boat Steward/Environmental Educator - 2020

About WNY PRISM

The Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) is one of eight regional partnerships within New York State created to address the threat of invasive species and prevent or minimize the harm they cause to the environment, economy, and human health. This is accomplished through use of a coordinated partnership network for which we provide leadership, technical assistance and collaboration opportunities. Our goal is to improve, restore, and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources by improving the effectiveness of invasive species management efforts and increasing awareness of invasive species issues throughout the 8-county region. The WNY PRISM Watercraft Inspection Program is designed to prevent the transport, spread and establishment of aquatic invasive species while increasing public awareness of this threat. WNY PRISM Boat Stewards are an essential component of this program and will represent WNY PRISM while working toward improving environmental health. For more information about WNY PRISM and our programming, please visit www.wnyprism.org.



WNY PRISM is a sponsored program of the Research Foundation for SUNY Buffalo State and is hosted by the Great Lakes Center. Funding for WNY PRISM is provided by the Environmental Protection Fund through a contract with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Position Description

WNY PRISM Boat Stewards/Environmental Educator will interact daily with the public at boat launches. Stewards will perform voluntary boat inspections to remove visible aquatic plants and animals from all types of watercraft. Removal of aquatic plants and animals will help to prevent the transport and spread of aquatic invasive species. Stewards will also be responsible for public education and distribution of educational materials. Boat Stewards will also have the opportunity to assist with invasive species removal projects. Projects may include early detection/rapid response efforts, or control projects to reduce established populations of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Stewards will be assigned to a single launch, however coverage needs may require occasional travel to assist at other launches. Stewards will receive a mandatory two-day training prior to beginning work at their assigned sites.

WNY PRISM is a supportive and collaborative environment that will provide the opportunity to learn and work within all aspects of invasive species management. Individuals will gain valuable experience, meet and work with local environmental professionals and increase their skills and knowledge of invasive species ecology, invasive species management practices, data collection, management and assessment, partnership coordination and public outreach.

Primary Responsibilities

- Conduct voluntary watercraft inspections at assigned boat launches.
- Collect survey data using provided data collection tools.
- Ensure data collected is accurate and complete, and uploaded as scheduled.
- Communicate effectively with supervisor.
- Maintain supplies and equipment.

- Provide end of season written summary of boat launch activities.
- Communicate with WNY PRISM partners.

Additional Responsibilities

- Assist with invasive species removal activities.
- Assist with invasive species surveys and monitoring.
- Represent WNY PRISM at community events such as county fairs and festivals.

Qualifications

- Completed, or pursuing, undergraduate degree in biology, natural resources, environmental sciences, or similar.
- Strong verbal communication skills.
- Ability to interact with the public in a professional and respectful manner.
- Ability to work independently and in potentially inclement weather.
- Experience with or basic knowledge of plant identification.
- Strong interest in invasive species management and ecology.
- Previous environmental education experience.
- Driver's license and reliable transportation to and from launch locations.

Physical Requirements

- Ability to lift 30-50 lbs.
- Ability to stand, bend and walk for extended periods of time.

In addition, WNY PRISM will be hiring 2 Lead Boat Stewards. Lead Boat Stewards will assist the Program Manager with training, scheduling and Boat Steward supervision for the Watercraft Inspection Program. In addition to Boat Steward qualifications listed above, the Lead Boat Steward Positions also require:

- Experience working with invasive species, aquatic invasive species strongly preferred.
- Leadership and supervisory experience.
- Strong problem-solving skills.
- Strong time management and organizational skills.

Locations

Boat launch sites will be located throughout the WNY PRISM region. Sites may be located along Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal including Holley and Lockport, Outer Harbor Buffalo, Niagara River, and Lake Erie (Sturgeon Point) Lake Ontario (Olcott), Allegheny River (Onoville), Bear, Chautauqua and Cuba Lakes.

Travel Requirements

Weekend and evening hours, as well as possible overnight travel for training, will be required. Use of personal vehicle is required for travel to/from launch, and to transport necessary supplies and equipment. Boat Stewards will be expected to travel to assigned boat launches and travel between 'home' and 'work' will be considered their commute.

Job Details

This is a full-time, temporary position (40 hours/week @ \$14.00/hr. Leads @ \$14.50/hr.) with an expected timeframe of May 19 – September 7, 2020 (Memorial Day – Labor Day), approximately 16 weeks. Boat Stewards will be required to attend a two-day mandatory training May 19 – 20, 2020. The work week will be comprised of 4, 10-hour days, Thursday - Sunday.

Weekends and Holidays are mandatory. Housing is not provided. WNY PRISM is hiring approximately 18 Stewards and 2 Lead Stewards.

To Apply

Please see full job description and apply online at: <https://www.rfhiring.com/jobs.asp>

The deadline for applications is Friday, March 13, 2020. Please follow all application directions, failure to do so may disqualify you from the position. Please provide cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references as a single attachment. Questions can be directed to Kristin King, Aquatics Program Manager at kingkm@buffalostate.edu. No phone calls please.

****Please clearly indicate which position(s) you are applying for and launch preferences****