

Proposal for ACS Model Internship Grant  
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Introduction:

I am requesting consideration for the ACS Student Development and Engagement Model Internship Grant to provide payment for the oyster farm internship position at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, this summer. I will be living at our home in Deltaville Virginia, which is a 30 minute commute from Gloucester where the project is located. It is an unpaid-internship and I am requesting funding for the 40 hours of work I will be doing each week and gas funding for the commute each day. I am requesting a stipend of \$1500/8weeks.

Project Description:

The project is in Gloucester Virginia and is run by Tommy Leggett, Virginia oyster fisheries scientist. This foundation is an organization which is focused on saving the Bay. They are attempting to do this through education, research and direct action that will impact the Bay. The native Virginia oyster is a keystone species of the Bay, providing habitats for fish and filtering algae and sediment from the water. Historically, oysters could clean the 64,000 square miles of the Bay in three days. This is not the case any more as their population has been destroyed by disease and over-harvesting. As a result, the Foundation began a project to restore the oyster population in the Bay. They have a goal of producing and transplanting one million native, adult oysters annually onto sanctuary reefs which are managed by the state. The spat or “baby” oysters are grown in floating upweller systems. This is what I will be helping with, moving the oysters as they grow to floats with larger mesh to allow more water to move through. The internship begins June 5<sup>th</sup> and goes through the August 18<sup>th</sup>. I will be working 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. I will be spending the majority of my time on the water in a small boat and there will be heavy lifting.

Personal Statement:

I am a junior Environmental Studies: Ecology and Biodiversity major at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. I have a GPA of 2.84. The wonderful thing about this major is that it works with the ecosystems that are directly around us and many of my courses have benefited greatly from field studies. This fall, I went to Australia with School for International Training (S.I.T). The program is all field studies allowing one to be outdoors and experience the biodiversity of the area rather than read about it in a book. I am an avid bike rider, spending as much time outside as possible. I am an Environmental Resident, which deals with recycling for my dorm. I work at The Blue Chair Bakery and Coffee Shop which is located in Sewanee. The majority of the profits from this go to a woman’s shelter called the Blue Monarch located down the mountain. I am really excited about working for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The internship allows me to be outside, getting directly involved in changes that will help the Bay which is exactly what I want to do. I have been fortunate to have a house on the Chesapeake Bay for more than ten years and have a deep love of this ecosystem. I am always looking to learn more about how it works and what can be done to save it.

Although I am not completely sure what I want to do following graduation, I most likely want to be involved with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation or another organization committed to

the health of the Bay. This will be an educational experience that will help me with future pursuits in this area.

Evaluation and Dissemination:

The success of the project will be seen in the future as the oysters grow. Restoring their population in the Bay is important for the health of the ecosystem. This will be a long process and although the success of it may not be seen immediately, the project itself is a step towards helping clean up the Bay. The work I will do will expand the population and hopefully help to restore what used to be the biggest fishery in the Bay. If required by the grant, I can ask my supervisor for a letter that verifies the helpfulness of my employment at summer's end.

Dr. Deborah McGrath of the biology department knows about my project; with her help, I will share information about oyster management at Sewanee during the 2006-2007 school year, possibly through a poster during Earth Week.