1. **Host Name:** The Wild Center

2. **Host Background Information:**

   **Mission** - *Ignite an enduring passion for the Adirondacks where people and nature can thrive together and set an example for the world.*

   The Wild Center is a not-for-profit organization located on a 31-acre site in the Town of Tupper Lake, NY near the geographic center of the Adirondack Park. The Adirondacks are unique in the world. Surrounded by people, they house great expanses of nature interspersed with small towns and communities. They can be an example for a future where man and the rest of the natural world find better ways to coexist. This new Center, dedicated to understanding this rare place, is committed to helping people explore not a small collection, but one that lives and breathes across the entire expanse of the Adirondacks. The Wild Center is science-based, and its experiences, exhibits and programs are designed to open new ways to look into the latest discoveries made by natural scientists. There may be no more important issue facing humankind than discovering better ways to coexist with the rest of the natural world, and there may be no better place to understand that effort than in the Adirondacks. The Center is the place to see and appreciate the natural side of that vital story. Our yearly visitation is approximately 100,000 – most of whom visit during the busy summer months. We have 35 full time staff and 150 volunteers along with our interns and seasonal staff.

3. **Position Name/Job Title:** Summer Naturalist - Internship

4. **Position Context:** The Summer Naturalist Intern is a member of the program staff team consisting of our education and animal care staff. This position is one of the most important positions of the Center - serving as an ambassador to the thousands of people who visit the center each year and helping them connect to nature in new ways. During the spring the intern will have the opportunity to work with our popular school programs. Then, once the end of June arrives, the majority of the time will be spent in the exhibits and on our 31 acre campus conducting education and interpretive programs.

5. **Position Description:** Describe responsibilities of the position and any related expectations.

   The Wild Center seeks Summer Naturalists to work with our dynamic education staff at a world class museum in the heart of Adirondack Park. Summer Naturalists Interns will have the responsibility of leading experiences in natural history interpretation, experiential education, school programs, and developing interpretive programming for a diverse audience. In addition to teaching, Interns will assist staff with daily operations,
including maintenance and development of education materials, attendance at
occasional evening programs, and other duties that will provide exposure to all aspects
of a museum.

6. **Basic Qualifications and Preferred Experience:** Describe any basic skills required to
successfully fulfill the responsibilities associated with the position and any preferred
educational or work or other related experience.

- Minimum 2 years completed at an accredited college or university in natural sciences,
environmental education, natural history interpretation, or a related field.
- Must be a highly motivated and organized individual with excellent communication skills
and customer service skills and have a passion to work in a fast-paced museum setting.
- Must be able to lift over 50 lbs and lead naturalist hikes on uneven terrain in all weather
conditions.
- Strong skills in public speaking, writing, and computers. Skills in multimedia and graphic
arts desired
- Flexible work schedule- weekends, some evenings and long days are required.
- Must be available to work from May 13th through September 2nd. (Flexibility available
for college students returning to school in the fall)
- Experience or interest in working with innovative teaching technologies helpful,
specifically graphic design, Science on a Sphere and distance learning.
- Knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Adirondack region and bird identification skills
highly desired
- Comfort with handling captive animals, including snakes, frogs, turtles and possibly
raptors
- Experience paddling tandem canoes and providing instruction highly preferred
- Previous teaching experience in a museum, nature center, park or zoo setting highly
preferred
- Must have valid driver’s license.

7. **Work Schedule:** It is the expectation of the CALS NYS Internship Program that interns
will devote 32 hours (80%) of a standard 40-hour work week to the responsibilities of
their position and 8 hours (20%) to the community engagement project. It is preferable
that the 20% release time be taken either in one eight-hour day or two, 4-hour half days.
The Host will work with the intern to accommodate this schedule.

8. **Expected Outcomes (for intern):**

- Knowledge of Adirondack flora and fauna
- Certified as a Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpretation –
knowledge of creating, designing and implementing a public interpretive program
- Improve public speaking and writing skills
- Learn how a non-profit science museum functions – seminars on fundraising, facilities,
sustainability, membership and education.

9. **Location of Assignment:** The Wild Center, 45 Museum Drive, Tupper Lake NY
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