Are you interested in a career focused on protecting the coastal environment through science communication in Southwest Florida? We are seeking a motivated individual to serve in a six-month long, paid internship starting October 2023. The intern will use science communication skills to promote coastal research successes on habitat protection, restoration, and conservation to the real estate community within the Rookery Bay Research Reserve. The internship is funded through the Friends of Rookery Bay.

Description: The internship opportunity assists the Coastal Training Program (CTP) at Rookery Bay Research Reserve to follow up on a realtor needs assessment conducted in 2022, to address topics of concern from their clients. The primary goal of this position will be to create a training and science communication plan for the local the real estate community.

During the internship, the candidate will work closely with CTP to learn more about stakeholder-driven program development. The candidate will also can contribute to reserve marketing projects, such as social media campaigns and outreach material for the real estate community by the creation of a welcome packet that may be provided to new homeowners. This position will need to work in a highly independent nature with both Reserve staff and the Friends of Rookery Bay.

Area(s) of discipline: Environmental Science, Environmental Education, Creative Media, Science Communication, Social Science, Business, or Journalism. The prospective intern need not have a particular major but should have an interest in better understanding the connections between the community and the coastal environment.

Candidate Responsibilities

- Review the 2022 needs assessment to identify prominent training needs
- Work with the CTP team to develop a training plan (identifying instructors for changing subject matters)
- Develop a realtor welcome packet (e.g. folders with brochures and take-aways)
- Assist CTP and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management staff with the logistics of Risk Communication for Realtors in SWFL training in December 2023.
- Ability to envision and execute messaging through the written word, videos and graphics production
- Work with Reserve staff and stakeholders in-person and/or virtually
- Assist as needed with other Reserve programs such as workshops for landscape professionals, resilience trainings, or collaborative research on mangrove ecosystems
- Work during scheduled times and successfully complete tasks within a reasonable time frame
- Deliver a presentation to Reserve staff summarizing experience gained for the duration of the internship
**Opportunities for learning and career growth:** This opportunity will create a unique learning experience, to understand the interactions between coastal ecosystems functioning in concert with a thriving and growing community. The primary objective of this program is to provide the selected candidate the opportunity to improve their knowledge about human dimensions of how people are interacting with coastal ecosystems and their growing curiosities and science communication skills.

**Required skills:** Experience working independently and as part of a team; Ability to manage time appropriately; Skilled in active listening, written and oral communication; Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others; Ability to summarize complex ideas; Ability to identify key themes in a concise and clear way; Computer skills.

**Preferred skills:** Experience working with a professional audience; Knowledge in advanced features of Microsoft Office Suite and Zoom; Basic knowledge of Southwest Florida’s coastal environment issues; Experience using process agendas and in educational program development.

**Duration:** 6 months starting September 2023

**Hours per week:** ~20 (Not to exceed a total of 500 Hours), Adaptable Work Schedule

**Compensation:** $300/week (Not to exceed a total of $7,500 Dollars);
*Housing available at the Reserve Dorms, per request.*

**Location:** Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road, Naples, Florida

**Application Closing Date:** Applications reviewed on a rolling basis until September 1, 2023.

**Anticipated Start/End Date:** October 2023/ March 2024

**Questions and Submission:** info@rookerybay.org; Subject: CTP Internship Application

**INCLUDE IN YOUR SUBMISSION:**

- Cover Letter of Interest
- Resume
- 1 Letter of Recommendation
- Unofficial Transcripts

**About:** The non-profit Friends of Rookery Bay connects people to southwest Florida’s dynamic coastal environmental in support of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Reserve provides a basis for informed stewardship of estuaries in Southwest Florida through research and education. Visit RookeryBay.org for more information.