

Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve
14 Marina Dr.
Superior, WI 54880

To find out more about the Lake Superior Reserve visit <https://lakesuperiornerr.org/>



Student Employment Opportunity

Position Title: Estuary Educator

Position Description: The Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve in Superior, WI, seeks a student to assist with community- and school-based learning opportunities about and with the St. Louis River and communities along its shores. Gain professional experience hosting community events and listening, educating, and communicating with people of all ages in schools and an interpretive setting. Learn and apply skills like project management, science interpretation, curriculum development, and teaching. Position is open to all majors and to international students.

This job opportunity provides extensive on the job training. No prior education expertise is required but a strong interest in communication, learning, and natural sciences is preferred. The Estuary Educator is supervised, on an education team of 3, and occasionally works independently once comfortable performing routine tasks.

The Estuary Educator works as a docent in the *Lake Superior Estuarium*—a public exhibit hall that tells stories of the St. Louis River Estuary & Lake Superior. Greet and engage visitors, assist with summer Reserve education efforts like teaching short educational programs for young children, light upkeep of the exhibit spaces, and communicate about projects at the Lake Superior Reserve and upcoming events. The Estuary Educator also supports the **Rivers2Lake Education Program** that provides year-long, in-depth mentoring in outdoor and place-based learning focused on the Lake Superior Watershed to teachers in regional schools. Rivers2Lake roles include visits to area schools to co-teach lessons and field experiences, assistance with teacher professional development events, curriculum development, and planning or advertising for workshops. All Reserve educators aim to engage respectfully and responsibly with people from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. The Estuary Educator may occasionally support other Reserve programs engaged in water quality monitoring, stewardship, and other duties.

Eligibility: Must have student status at an accredited academic institution through Fall 2025.

Position details:

- Pay is \$16.00 per hour.
- The position term is May 18 through December 31, 2026 (with potential for extension).
- The office and Estuarium are located at 14 Marina Dr. Superior, WI, 1.5 miles from UW-Superior's campus. Transportation from UWS campus can be arranged if needed. Travel to local schools or program sites is provided.

Position details, continued:

- Work hours are 24-40 hours per week during the Summer (usually 24). During the summer most hours are in the Estuarium, with some Rivers2Lake or other education program hours.
- Work hours are 4-8 hours per week during Fall semesters. During the school year most of the hours are with the Rivers2Lake program or Estuarium.
- Hours are flexible with the student's academic schedule and mostly occur within the Monday - Friday, 8:00-5:00 pm time frame.
- Saturday shifts in the Estuarium can be expected 2-3 times per month in the Summer and up to 1 time per month during Fall semester.

Desired qualifications:

- Successful, respectful communication ability with K-12 students, teachers, and members of the public.
- Knowledgeable and able to work with Microsoft Office software (primarily Word, Excel and Publisher) and Google Suite.
- Able to work outside, occasionally on uneven ground or in boats like canoes.
- Able to work independently on assigned tasks.
- Reliable work ethic and ability to problem solve.
- Ability to work with youth (minors) in an informal setting.
- Employment will require a criminal background check.

Applications:

To apply for this position please email your resume and responses to application questions (below) to Luciana Ranelli (Luciana.Ranelli@wisc.edu). Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis until April 1, 2026.

Application materials include:

- Your resume
- Written responses to the following questions in sentences and/or 1-2 paragraphs:
 1. Why are you interested in the Estuary Educator position?
 2. Which of your experiences (work, academic, study, life, extracurricular...) feel especially relevant to this position? Why?
 3. What do you hope to learn or practice in this position?

Proof of student status will be required later in the process (letter from home institution, copy or image of current registration and course schedule, current tuition payment receipt, unofficial transcript...)

Application notes:

- For tips on developing a resume or cover letter, check out: <https://successworks.wisc.edu/resume-and-cover-letters/#guides>
- Please contact Luciana Ranelli, the Education Coordinator, with any questions via phone at 715-399-4085 or email at luciana.ranelli@wisc.edu.
- Please also contact Luciana if you need any accommodations to apply for this job.