



Position: Mount Washington Summit Internship

Reports To: Director of Weather Operations, Weather Observers

Updated: February 2023

The Mount Washington Observatory (MWOBS) has operated a weather station at the summit of the Northeast's highest peak for ninety years. MWOBS interns take part in daily operational duties of our summit observation team, help with generating forecasts, undertake one research project, and aid in education and outreach.

Interns will live and work with one of two weekly shifts of MWOBS summit staff. All interns will have a working goal of gaining competency performing daily meteorological observations as well as learning basic rules to coding METAR observations. Opportunities for professional development and career advancement exist with this position.

Please fill out the application for the internship for which you are applying by the appropriate deadline on mountwashington.org/internships/.

MWOBS Interns Shall have the Following Responsibilities

MWOBS primary focus is the hourly observations that make up the historical record of the summit station. However, our mission statement highlights three main areas of activity: observation, research, and education. As an intern at the Mount Washington Observatory, your main goals will be directed toward competency in a variety of tasks that help support the mission and make up general summit operations. Specific duties include:

- Work a full ten-hour work day while on shift, including attending weekly meetings, recording hours and (with staff) setting and revising personal goals.
- Gaining competency performing observations and learning basic rules to coding METAR observations. This will involve a careful study of both the KMWN Station Weather Manual and the FMH-1 as well as shadowing observers.
- Learning the procedure to independently provide MWOBS weather station tours.
- Aiding in Extreme Mount Washington Museum operations including: interpretation of exhibits and general interaction with visitors.
- Contributing to the web content produced daily at MWOBS including weekly blog and social media posts. This may include photography that highlights a chronology of weather and events at the summit or images of other summit events.
- Taking part in both map discussions and the recording of forecasts under the tutelage of the summit staff, with an eye toward contributing to the White Mountains Higher Summits and other regional forecasts.
- Helping with making the summit presentable for visitors, guests and members.
- Planning and completing one research project with MWOBS staff, partner university faculty, or other partner institutions including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service, Howard University, Appalachian Mountain Club, United States

Forest Service, or other). Project topics might be based in meteorology, climate, environmental science, environmental policy, technology or science communications.

- Exploring the summit, the buildings, and the surrounding mountains and trails.
- Other duties as needed and assigned by a supervisor.

Education and Experience

Interns should either have completed or be in process with an undergraduate or graduate degree in weather, climate, and environmental sciences or a related discipline.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Curious and inquisitive, with a willingness to ask questions
- Ability to be on-call for both day and night shifts.
- Friendly and clear with public requests for help, excellent communication skills.
- Takes the initiative to help the team when needed, good at problem-solving.
- Good at observation of surroundings, safety, and the natural environment.
- Able to analyze charts, tables, and data.
- Willing to understand METAR code, know why it is used, and how to code weather conditions.

Work Environment

This position will be based at the Mount Washington Observatory's weather station on the summit of Mount Washington. Some travel will be required at times, including to the summit of Mount Washington or to MWOBS valley office in North Conway, New Hampshire.

Benefits

All MWOBS internships are supported by a generous stipend to cover travel, housing, and living costs. Payment is spread equally across our 14-week Summer and Fall internships, and increased slightly for our 16-week winter internships. Internships with our partners in the United States Forest Service, Appalachian Mountain Club, NOAA's National Weather Service, Howard University, or Jackson State University may come with differing benefits and sources of support.

Employment at Will

This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between MWOBS and employee and is subject to change as needs evolve through your work.