

VCS 2026 Summer Internships

The Virginia (Ginny) Jones Internship in Civic Leadership & Environmental Advocacy

Two Part-Time Positions Available

The Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS) is proud to offer the **Virginia (Ginny) Jones Internships in Civic Leadership and Environmental Advocacy**. These paid summer internships were created to honor the life and legacy of Ginny Jones. Interns will gain hands-on experience working at the intersection of environmental protection, local decision-making, research, and public communication.

Honoring Ginny Jones

Virginia “Ginny” Jones was deeply devoted to protecting the nature and rural character of Martha’s Vineyard. A thoughtful leader and tireless advocate, Ginny believed that meaningful change happens when informed, passionate people engage in the civic process. She was equally committed to supporting Island youth, encouraging curiosity, leadership, and the confidence to speak up for what matters.

This internship brings those values together—pairing **environmental advocacy with civic leadership**—so that the next generation of Island stewards can learn how to protect the place they love.

About the Internship

Both positions are **8 week (min)-12 week (max) paid summer internships**. Specific start and end dates are flexible. Interns work closely with VCS staff on real-world environmental issues facing Martha’s Vineyard, while learning how advocacy, research, and community engagement shape local outcomes.

This position is designed for students who are curious about the various ways a community addresses environmental issues, and who believe, as Ginny did, that one person can make a difference.

- **Positions Available:** 2 part-time internships
- **Duration:** Minimum 8-week commitment during the summer
- **Schedule:** Part-time; 10-15 hrs/wk
- **Location:** Martha’s Vineyard
- **Compensation:** Paid
- **Housing & Transportation:** Applicants are responsible for securing their own housing and transportation

- **Equipment:** Personal laptop required

Eligibility & Preferred Qualifications

- College or high school graduates pursuing (or considering) studies related to environmental protection, advocacy, public policy, sciences, humanities, communications, or a related field
- Must have housing on Martha's Vineyard
- Ability to work at least three days per week in person at the VCS office
- Passion for nature and the Vineyard community
- Interest in civic engagement and local decision-making
- Proficiency in Canva or similar design platforms is a plus
- Strong writing skills are a plus

What You'll Do

Environmental Advocacy & Community Engagement

- Assist VCS staff with current advocacy initiatives
- Support outreach and engagement at public events
- Engage with local businesses around environmental regulations
- Network with town boards, commissions, and community partners

Research Project

The internships include a research project related to current work at VCS.

- Select an environmental issue under discussion locally and do the following research:
 - Who are the stakeholders?
 - Who benefits—and what is at risk—under the status quo?
 - What policy or regulatory options exist for change?
 - What are the short- and long-term environmental impacts?
 - What unintended consequences or risks should be considered?
 - How have other communities addressed similar challenges, and what lessons apply to Martha's Vineyard?
 - Attend 2–3 local government meetings (e.g., Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission) related to the issue.

Writing & Communications

- Complete two writing assignments on selected issues, potentially to be used in VCS media.
- When appropriate, interns may also submit work to local newspapers
- Assist with social media content, posters, flyers, and other outreach materials

Application Process

To be considered, applicants must submit:

- A one-page cover letter
- A resume
- One letter of recommendation
- 2 references

All application materials should be emailed to **info@vineyardconservation.org**.