

The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research



Sustainability Education Intern Handshake Job #10537918

Department: The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research

Supervisor: Samantha (Sami) Bortz, Director

Position: Sustainability Education Intern

**Please note that this is not for academic credit unless there is faculty advisor/supervisor approval*

Start Date: Week of Jan. 19th/26th (1st 2 weeks of the spring 2026 semester)

End Date: If work is satisfactory, it is preferred that this position be held until the student graduates SRU including the summer semesters! It is required that this intern can work through summer 2026 to support our summer camp programming (see summer camp schedule).

How to Apply: Please submit the following materials via Handshake!

- 3 Professional References (include contact information and relationship to you & include at least 1 faculty member)
- Resume (include GPA and expected graduation date)
- Cover Letter (Optional)

Position Description: We are seeking a sustainability-minded and enthusiastic student to join our team and assist with our sustainability education programming, including class tours, public specialty programs, workshops, facilitating our on-campus pop-up shop, tabling, summer camp, and more!

About the MC: The Macoskey Center (MC) is a 70-acre sustainability education, demonstration, and research center at Slippery Rock University. The MC was founded in 1990 by Dr. Robert A. Macoskey and the ALTER Project. The property features hiking trails, gardens, a greenhouse, chickens, quail, a LEED-certified house with classroom and office space, a barn, and much more!

Mission/Vision of The Macoskey Center:

The Macoskey Center aims to inspire and create a more just and sustainable future. We achieve this through:

1. ***Education*** to equip people from all walks of life with sustainability skills, values, and knowledge.
2. ***Demonstration*** to inspire others through the sustainable management of our 70-acre homestead.
3. ***Research*** to advance sustainability knowledge and provide learning opportunities for SRU and the larger community.

We define sustainability as...

1. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. The integration of social, environmental, economic, and cultural systems to create thriving, inclusive, diverse, and resilient communities.

Job Functions/Responsibilities:

- Create, plan, and implement sustainability education programming and presentations for a variety of different audiences, including SRU students, faculty, staff, community members, and children.
- Assist MC Education Team with planning, organizing, and implementing MC 2026 Summer Camps
- Provide excellent customer service and provide professional communications via email, phone, and/or in-person with various stakeholders about programming, events, updates, activities, and more.
- Assist with program assessment, dissemination, and evaluation
- Meet regularly and work collaboratively with the Sustainability Education Graduate Assistant and other Summer Camp interns
- Regularly interact in a positive, informative, and professional manner with visitors, volunteers, and other MC staff
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements:

- Clear background check from SRU Payroll System **BEFORE** the start date
- Enrolled as an undergraduate student at Slippery Rock University
- Ability to work 8-10 hrs/week during the fall and spring semesters during the MC's open hours (M-F 9am-5pm)
- Ability to work 22.5-30 hrs/week during Summer 2026 and is available to work all summer camp weeks and final prep weeks (see Summer Camp Schedule)
- Strong preference is given to candidates who would be able to continue working through Fall 2026
- Must have previous lesson planning/implementation, program planning/implementation, group facilitation, or teaching experience
- Must be comfortable working with audiences of all ages and talking to the public
- Team-oriented and strong interpersonal skills
- Willingness to be flexible and adapt to new challenges
- Demonstration of basic professionalism including timeliness, clear and respectful communication, and willingness to adhere to MC Student Employee Manual Policies
- Committed to and passionate about the Mission/Vision of The Macoskey Center

Summer Camp Schedule:

#	Weeks	Activity	Weekly Hours	Notes
	5/4-5/8	FINALS WEEK		
	5/11-5/15	OFF		
1	5/18-5/22	Summer Camp Educators Training & Orientation Week	22.5	
2	5/26-5/29	Prep for Overall Summer Camp	22.5	Memorial Day (5/25) OFF; Work Week is Shifted to Tues-Th
3	6/1-6/5	Final Prep for Camp Week #1	22.5	
4	6/8-6/12	Summer Camp Week #1 (6/8-6/10)	30	
5	6/15-6/19	Final Prep for Camp Week #2	22.5	MC is Closed on Fri (6/19)
6	6/22-6/26	Summer Camp Week #2 (6/22-6/24)	30	
7	6/29-7/3	4th of July/Flex Week	15	MC is Closed on Fri (7/3)
8	7/6-7/10	Final Prep for Week #3	22.5	
9	7/13-7/17	Summer Camp Week #3 (7/13-7/15)	30	
10	7/20-7/24	Final Prep for Week #4	22.5	
11	7/27-7/31	Summer Camp Week #4 (7/27-7/29)	30	
12	8/3-8/7	Clean Up & Debrief	22.5	
	8/10-8/14	OFF		
	8/17-8/21	OFF		
	8/24-8/28	FALL SEMESTER BEGINS		

Benefits:

- 8-10 hrs/week paid position during spring & fall semesters at \$10/hr. During the summer semester, 22.5-30 hrs/week paid position at \$10/hr. (potentially some additional paid opportunities)
- Receive environmental education training and experience
- If available (March 8-10, 2026), attend the Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Education Conference with other MC student interns and staff. Registration, membership, and housing costs covered.
- A share of fresh, organically-grown produce from the Learning Garden during position duration and when seasonally available.
- Allowance of up to 3 days excused absences (fall, spring, & summer)
- Various professional development opportunities
- One-on-one mentorship & independent project skills development

Application/Hiring Process Timeline & Directions:

- **DEADLINE TO APPLY: Sunday, January 4th by 11:59 pm**
 - Please submit the following materials via Handshake!
 - 3 Professional References (include contact information and relationship to you & include at least 1 faculty member)
 - Resume (include GPA and expected graduation date)
 - Cover Letter (Optional)
- **Notification of Interviews will be sent by Friday, January 9th by 5:00 pm**
- **Interview sign-ups are due on Sunday, January 11th by 11:59pm**
- **Interviews to be conducted the week of January 12th**
- **Hiring decisions sent by Friday, January 16th by 5:00pm**
- **Position starts as soon as CLEARANCES are completed during the weeks of January 19th/26th (first 2 weeks of the Spring 2026 semester)**

Questions? Please contact Samantha (Sami) Bortz (The Macoskey Center Director) at samantha.bortz@sru.edu