



Wabanaki Youth in Science Paid Mentorships & Internships for UMaine and High School Students

NEW KINAP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

***Kinap ~ protector: Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, warrior spirit: Micmac
Kínape ~ warrior: Penobscot***

Through a grant from the USDA, called New Beginning for Wabanaki Students (NBWS), the University of Maine Wabanaki Center and the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program have funding to support mentorships and internships for Wabanaki students.

There are two distinct programs. **Kinap Mentorships** are available to college-age students (upper level undergraduates or graduate students) who will be mentors to younger students at UMaine and in their tribal communities.

WaYS Internships are also available for all Wabanaki students--high school and college age--living in Maine. Students will collaborate with advisors to design an internship project in an area of concern to them and to their tribal community. Their project advisors will include a Cultural Knowledge Keeper from the Wabanaki community and a western researcher or professional. Other advisors can be included.

Kinap Mentorship Program

The goal of the Kinap (*pronounced gee-nap*) mentorship program is to create a group of Native American peer mentors for younger Native students throughout the academic year. As a group, Kinap mentors are *Kinapiyik* (plural for Kinap; pronounced *gee-nah-pee-yig*). They will share their educational experiences at University, be supportive role models, and encourage engagement with Wabanaki communities on and off-campus.

As part of their mentorship, Kinapiyik will be responsible for participating in both on and off-campus programs aimed at bringing together Wabanaki cultural values, indigenous ways of knowing, and western education. UMaine activities will include social gatherings including food and stories, and roundtables with students and faculty involved in projects that are positively impacting tribal communities across the state. This will include events with programs as diverse as Forestry, Anthropology, Creative Arts, Education, and Marine Sciences, all of which have previously established connections to local Native communities.

Kinapiyik are expected to bring their educational experiences back to their own Native communities. Off-campus mentoring activities will engage the tribal communities, with an emphasis on the reservation community of Indian Island. These activities, coordinated by the WaYS Program, will explore potential projects related to community needs. The activities will be structured to connect Kinapiyik with younger Native American students and elders.

Some examples of these activities are engaging with youth programs at Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, after-school programs at Indian Island, and WaYS science camps. In addition to participating in on- and off-campus mentoring activities, Kinapiyik will also be required to meet with a representative of the Wabanaki Center for life-coaching sessions every other week, to offer guidance and support throughout the academic year.

In exchange for their participation in these programs, Kinapiyik will receive a stipend of \$1500/year, based on participating in three on- and three off-campus activities a semester in addition to the life coaching sessions.

WaYS Internships

** Please see the last page of this announcement for a list of past and potential internship ideas.*

We hope that Kinapiyik will also seek out--with the help of the Wabanaki Center and WaYS--internship opportunities related to their interests. **However, these are two distinct paid opportunities; a college-age student can participate in both the mentorship and internship programs, or choose one. High school students are only eligible for internships.**

WaYS internships are long-term projects, a year or more, in an area that interests the student and their tribal community. Interns will be mentored by a Cultural Knowledge

Keeper, who will provide guidance toward the cultural knowledge and values in their project, and a UMaine faculty member or some other professional mentor. WaYS interns have a variety of placement options with academic and Tribal partners for work or research in a science or broadly science related field.

WaYS interns at the high school level are paid at least minimum wage and at the college level are paid a competitive research-related salary based on their experience. The number of hours dedicated to the project is flexible depending upon each student's situation.

FAQ

1. Who is eligible?

All participants must be part of the Native American community and be eligible for the Native American Waiver and Education Program (NAWEP). Kinap mentors must be enrolled at UMaine, in at least one course. WaYS interns must be a high school or college student.

2. In what fields are the WaYS internship projects?

Internships can be in a broad number of fields, but the project and/or placement should be of concern to the Wabanaki communities. Students should propose an area of interest to them! They can also explore participating in existing projects or programs in the Wabanaki communities. See list on last page.

3. How many are available?

Currently, there are funds for 5 Kinap Mentorships and 5 WaYS Internships. These are two distinct paid opportunities; a college-age student can participate in both or choose one. High school students are only eligible for internships.

4. What is the rate of pay?

Kinap mentors will be given a stipend of \$1500 for the academic year, which requires Kinapiyik to do the following:

- 1) Participate in 3 on-campus and 3 off-campus events per semester
- 2) Meet regularly with their life/academic coach.

WaYS Interns are paid hourly. High school students will be paid at least minimum wage and college students will be paid a competitive research-related salary based on their experience. The number of hours is flexible, depending on the student's situation.

**IF YOU WANT TO RECOMMEND A STUDENT TO EITHER PROGRAM OR YOU WANT TO
SUBMIT YOUR NAME AS A CANDIDATE, PLEASE CONTACT**

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Previous WaYS Internship locations and topics

- Dept. of Natural Resources, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (Forestry/Water/Wildlife)
- Dept. of Natural Resources, Penobscot Nation (Forestry/Water/Wildlife)
- USFS, Penobscot Experimental Forest (Forestry)
- School of Biology and Ecology, University of Maine (Wetland research)
- School of Earth and Science, University of Maine (Climate change research)
- School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine (Salmon research)
- NOAA (fish)
- Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and wildlife (Fish hatchery)

Ideas for WaYS Internships

- Topic of your design with an organization connected to your tribal community
- Explore connections between art and social issues in your community
- Make a visual representation of significant features and stories in the environment that are related to your traditional culture
- Work on improving our responses to climate change both environmentally and socially - collect spatial information and stories
- Support fisheries restoration on a local River - work with maps or environmental DNA