

# Reducing Littering At Chicago Beaches

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## Summer 2016 Project

Stipend available; Office location – 150 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago IL; need to utilize your own laptop/technology;

If interested please submit a resume and a cover letter to Olga Lyandres ([olyandres@greatlakes.org](mailto:olyandres@greatlakes.org)), Research manager at the Alliance for the Great Lakes. Applications will be accepted by May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 or until the position is filled.

## Overall Project Description and Goals

The Alliance for the Great Lakes will launch a stewardship project in partnership with the Chicago Park District (CPD) to understand beach user attitudes and use the feedback to reduce marine debris from our beaches and change littering behavior among beach goers. This campaign will cultivate emotional and social connections to our coastal resources, a departure from the “doom and gloom” tone frequently associated with environmentalism. This project will connect to and build on community interests and priorities, using lessons learned from the latest research in behavioral and environmental psychology that support the efficacy of positive, collaborative and inclusive engagement models. The specific goals of the project include:

1. Over the next 2 years, implement litter reduction interventions, targeting Oak St. Beach (year 1) and Loyola and Calumet (year 2), assessed by measurable reduction of litter, behavior observations and polling of beach goers.
2. Collaborate with a representative group of local organizations who have identified litter reduction and beach improvements as a priority for their constituents.

Campaign described in more detail below.

## Student Project Goals

1. Assist with developing methodology to gather stakeholder feedback regarding attitudes about littering behavior at the beach and connection to the beach as a place in the community
2. Conduct data collection and/or coordinate a group of volunteers conducting data collection
3. Conduct data analysis

The project, and ultimately improvements to the health of Great Lakes beaches, needs to be advanced in a way that reflects community stakeholders’ and beach users’ priorities. As such, we will be having discussions with community leaders to achieve buy-in and participation, as well as individuals at the beach. We will be gathering information throughout the beach season to better understand who goes to the beach, what experiences people have at the beach, how important beach cleanliness is to that experience and ways to remove barriers to proper disposal of litter.

The primary responsibility is to develop and implement approaches for gathering feedback from beach users to refine and improve the effectiveness of the litter reduction interventions piloted at Oak St. Beach, Chicago IL. The candidate will also support the implementation of litter reduction interventions piloted at Oak St, Beach and help coordinate and train volunteers to collect data from beach goers. This work supports the implementation of stewardship programming focused on constituent and partner engagement in Chicago and improvement of coastal resources for Great Lakes communities.

This is a part-time temporary position with a \$1,500 stipend, anticipated to require about 15-20 hours/week from June, 2016 to August/September, 2016 (exact dates and hours are negotiable).

**Applicants for this position may be current undergraduate/graduate students or college graduates.**

### **Specific tasks will be:**

- Collect data at Oak St. Beach over the course of the summer;
- Process and analyze the data collected;
- Draft a report with the results; and
- Work in conjunction with the Research Managers and Stewardship Coordinator on developing and implementing stewardship and litter reduction interventions at site.

### **Eligibility and qualifications:**

Candidate will require a variety of skill sets, but general qualifications must include:

- The ability to work with others in a small, friendly office setting;
- Good research, written and verbal communication skills;
- Motivation to get results and learn quickly, while being proactive to seek guidance;
- Experience with Microsoft Office 2010 Suite, Statistical analysis tools;
- Experience with stakeholder engagement and facilitation;
- Availability on weekends; and
- **Availability from June to late August/early September.**