



**AppalachiaCorps Student Internship Program
Summer 2021 Student Profiles**

UK Appalachian Center & Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement

[AppalachiaCorps](#) is a student internship program offered through the Appalachian Center and the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. The program pairs students with opportunities for experiential learning in Eastern Kentucky and the greater Appalachian region.

AppalachiaCorps serves a three-fold purpose:

- Providing students with unique work and learning opportunities
- Strengthening the University of Kentucky's land-grant commitment to the Appalachian region
- Building capacity and networks of relationship between Appalachian organizations

Summer 2021 Internship sites:

- The Sunup Initiative (Corbin, KY)
- Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN)
- Appalachian Citizens Law Center (ACLC)
- Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET)
- FAHE (Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises)
- Highlands Museum & Discovery Center
- Center for Rural Development
- Living Arts & Science Center
- Madison Middle School, Richmond, Ky
- Tri-Cities Sleepy Hollow Golf Course
- Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History
- Pikeville Medical Center



Student Experiences

Logan Turner



Logan Turner, a native of Floyd County, worked as an intern at Pikeville Medical Center. Through his role as an Operating Room Intern, Logan was able to assist operating room staff with communication with patients and family and regularly shadow physicians during operations and clinical hours. Logan's favorite experience at PMC was being able to work with a patient before cataract surgery, shadow the physician during the surgery, then speak with the patient afterwards and hear how the procedure had helped him regain vision. Logan is thankful that the AppalachiaCorps program can provide students with unique and interesting opportunities that can further their career goals and understandings of the region. Logan hopes to attend medical school and eventually practice as a retina-specialist ophthalmologist in eastern Kentucky.

Ashley Watkins



This summer Ashley Watkins worked as an intern at LiKEN (Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network) as the Martin County Stories of Place Web Developer. Through her experience at LiKEN, Ashley was able to begin web development for Stories of Place, organize a website accountability team made primarily of Martin County citizens, and build connections with the University of Kentucky's Nunn Center for future projects. Ashley's favorite experience at LiKEN was learning more about the people of Martin County. "Through this project," Ashley states, "I have been able to build lasting connections with like-minded individuals focused on showing the true beauty of Appalachia. Because of these connections, I will be able to continue my web development position on Martin County Stories of Place." Ashley recommends any student interested in service or cultural exploration to participate in AppalachiaCorps.

Danica Moon



This summer Danica Moon worked as an intern at Fahe, the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises. By working under the organization's president, Danica was able to build a thorough understanding of what it's like to work in a nonprofit focusing on housing access and economic development. She worked on a blog post for Fahe's social media channels regarding the American Rescue Plan and other stimulus bills, and how they will impact Appalachia. Danica recommends AppalachiaCorps to those considering applying, saying "Even if you're not sure if a certain organization or field is one you'd like to work in long-term, give it a try for the summer. Some of my most valuable lessons from the experience centered around both what I want and don't want from a career and from a workplace, and what feels most fulfilling for me".

Clayton Dalton



Through the AppalachiaCorps student internship program this summer, Clayton Dalton worked at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY, as an intern and resident assistant for their Summer Youth Programs. Through Clayton's role as an intern, he was able to help students from Appalachia participate in STEM exploration, civic engagement, leadership enhancement, and experiential learning. One of Clayton's favorite experiences was helping students at the Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute identify, create, and pitch a business idea to a board of investors from the Appalachian region. Of the experience, he says, "Working with the students at the Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute has shown me just how bright the youth of Appalachia truly are. This is the next generation of business and civic leaders and I am so grateful to have been able to watch their minds at work." Clayton suggests any student interested in service to Appalachia consider participating in AppalachiaCorps in the future!

Haley Shepherd



Haley Shepherd worked as an intern at the Center for Health Equity Transformation at the University of Kentucky. Through Haley's role as an intern, she was able to complete projects including creating health infographics for the organization's website, learning about research ethics and health inequities in Kentucky, and interviewing graduate research assistants to write personalized articles for the website. Haley's favorite experience was learning about the research process, stating, "After developing my own research question and performing my first literature review, I now feel more prepared to conduct future research and join new research teams!"

Hayden Simon



Hayden Simon worked as an intern at the Living Arts & Science Center as the Science Education Intern. Through Hayden's role as the Science Education intern, Hayden was able to spend time in the classrooms with students teaching lessons on the Appalachian region, including lessons on its art, history, and environmental issues. Hayden's favorite lesson to teach was Appalachian weaving and watching all the students have fun creating awesome functional weaving art out of cups and yarn! Hayden highly recommends the AppalachiaCorps for any student interested in service to Appalachia.

Larah Ballard



Larah Ballard worked as an intern at the Nunn Center for Oral History on UK's campus. Through Larah's role as intern, they were able to do first-hand research for their undergraduate oral history project. Larah is from Montgomery County and is also active in Appalachian music circles.

Austin Huff



Austin Huff was a 2021 summer intern with the Appalachian Citizens Law Center in Whitesburg. Austin is a native of Knott County majoring in Political Science and minoring in Appalachian Studies. In his role he had the opportunity to work on projects that involve clean water access, and federal black lung litigation. During his time, he contributed significantly to the projects, and even had the opportunity to work with attorneys on different clients' cases. Austin says that his summer as an AppalachiaCorps intern was invaluable and he would recommend serving Appalachia for the summer to anybody!

Rachel Endicott



Rachel Endicott was an intern at Madison Middle School through the AppalachiaCorps program in Richmond, Ky. She was an assistant to the school guidance counselor there and was responsible for decluttering and organizing unused storage areas, sorting educational materials leftover from state testing, logging student data onto the school archives, and assisting teachers and students throughout the month-long summer school program. Rachel's favorite experience was helping the summer school students build robots for a teamwork exercise and competition at the end of the summer program. "My experience at this internship through AppalachiaCorps strengthened my desire to become a school guidance counselor and will definitely prepare me for future work in K-12 educational institutions.

Jessica Miller



Jessica Miller worked as an intern at the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center in Ashland, Kentucky. She was able to complete interesting projects such as a script for the haunted house the museum will be hosting and conducting crafts with children. Jessica feels a lot more secure in her career plans and her

competency as a worker as a result of her internship. She recommends any self-starting student to participate in the program as it provides valuable insight and work experience.

Lainey Cox



Lainey Cox worked as an intern at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course, a nonprofit organization in Harlan County, Kentucky. The course is the area's main source of tourism and means a lot to the community. Through Lainey's role as an intern Lainey was able to plan and organize different tournaments and scrambles that raised money for other nonprofit organizations in the county. Lainey was able to learn skills in social media, website design, and professional communication. All skills in which she is thankful to have learned. She remarked, "Overall, my experience was amazing, and I plan to use the skills I learned in my future career."

Madison Roark



Madison Roark worked as an intern for the SunUp Initiative in Corbin. Through Madison's role as a SunUp intern she was able to do many outreach events such as a Vigil in Remembrance of Victims of Racial Violence, a booth at the Nibroc festival, and going into many classrooms teaching inclusive lessons. Madison's favorite experience was being able to go to the Vigil in Remembrance of Victims of Racial Violence because it was a safe space where healing occurred and love and mutual respect was shared. Madison encourages students interested in service of Appalachia to consider participating in AppalachiaCorps in the future!