

**Host an intern,  
gain summer capacity, and inspire  
the next generation of rural  
leaders!**

## The Golden LEAF Scholarship

The Golden LEAF Scholarship is a highly competitive, four-year scholarship awarded each year to 215 students who reside in a qualifying Golden LEAF county and have expressed an intent to return to a rural North Carolina community upon college graduation. These scholarships provide experiences for recipients to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to help build our rural economy.

## The Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative

The Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative offers eligible Golden LEAF Scholars the opportunity to spend their summer working on-the-ground in a rural community. Internships help students apply their education in a real-world setting, learn from experts about their chosen industry, and experience life as a professional in rural North Carolina. Interns will work at least eight weeks between May and August, for up to 400 total hours (minimum 320 hours required). The Golden LEAF Foundation provides funding to pay interns \$16-\$18/hour for their work.

## Internship Site Responsibilities

Internship sites that take on an intern agree to provide the intern with a meaningful project or role that aligns with the student's college major and future career goals. Internship sites include, but are not limited to, businesses, non-profits, governmental entities, and/or companies. Supervisors also commit to reporting on intern performance via bi-weekly surveys as well as mentoring the student on the role, professionalism, and rural community leadership. All participating internship sites will enter a three-party agreement with the Golden LEAF Foundation and a temporary employment agency, which will be the intern's employer of record and will manage payroll and similar services.

## What Happens Next?

After a Golden LEAF Scholar has spoken with you about this opportunity and you've determined you would like to move forward, the scholar will include your information on their application. Golden LEAF will then reach out to you to gather some additional information that includes: your organizational contact information, the supervisor's role and contact information, and a brief job description that details what the intern will work to accomplish during their internship.

While the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative aims to provide its participating scholars with valuable work experiences, there are guidelines for activities scholars may engage in within Bioscience, Clinical, Health, and Medical (BCHM) settings. You can review the [catalog](#) for a list of pre-approved BCHM intern positions.

Please note that the internship opportunity is competitive, and not every scholar who submits an application will be selected to receive the internship. If a scholar is not selected for an internship, the internship site has no further obligation. Internship selections will be announced by April 2026.



## Internship Site Benefits

Internship sites that accept a Golden LEAF intern receive added summer capacity and benefit from working with one of North Carolina's brightest young people, at no cost to the company.

Most importantly, internship sites play a role in developing the capacity of the next generation workforce and encouraging our state's young people to live and work in rural North Carolina.

## Timeline

- December 2, 2025 - Application Portal Opens
- January 22, 2026 - Early Application Deadline
- February 19, 2026 - Regular Application Deadline
- February - March 2026 - Selection Window
- March 2026 - Interns Announced
- March - May 2026 - Internship Onboarding & Orientation
- May 18, 2026 - All Internships Begin
- August 7, 2026 - Internships End

## Questions?

Contact us at  
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252-216-2575

For more information, please visit the [Golden LEAF Internship Initiative Website](#).