AUSABLE
Freshwater Center

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT – FIELD TECHNICIAN

The Ausable Freshwater Center (AFC), a non-profit environmental conservation organization based in Wilmington, New York, is seeking up to two (2) **Field Technicians** to assist with environmental lake survey work in the Adirondack Park as part of the Survey of Climate and Adirondack Lake Ecosystems (SCALE). The Field Technician will report to the Water Quality Research Manager and will work under the supervision of the Field Team Leader in field sampling, data collection, gear preparation, and equipment maintenance. Candidates should have experience following Standard Operating Procedures, using field instrumentation, collecting water and biological samples, applying fisheries sampling techniques, identifying fish, and keeping meticulous records.

Position Overview

Status:	Full-time, temporary employee, 40 hours/week
Compensation:	Up to $24 per hour, dependent on experience. Some overtime may be available.
Hire Timeline:	Applications accepted on a rolling basis and no later than 18 March; position runs from May to October or approximately 25 weeks
Location:	Position will be based out of the AFC Laboratory located on the Uihlein Campus in Lake Placid, NY.

Position Description

Approximately 250 lakes across the Adirondack Park will be sampled during a three-year period (2025-2027) as part of SCALE. The Field Technician will be part of a field crew collecting data from these lakes. Primary duties of the Field Technician include:

- Assist with coordinating field schedule, land access permissions, and logistics of long days and overnight trips.
- Preparing sampling equipment and loading field gear into field vehicles.
- Follow safety guidelines and assist in ensuring safe field operations.
- Driving or riding (sometimes long distances) with canoes on vehicle.
- Traveling to ponds via hiking and canoeing. This includes carrying and portaging gear, boats, and equipment over rough terrain.
- Water sample collection from canoes and other small boats.
- Measuring chemical and physical water characteristics using field instrumentation.
- Maintain detailed field notes on sampling conditions, site characteristics, and observations.
- Assist with biological sample collection, including plankton, macroinvertebrates, and fish (minnow trapping, seining, and gill netting

- Assist with basic troubleshooting of field equipment under the direction of the crew leader.
- Assist with environmental DNA sampling.
- Data collection and data entry. Support data quality assurance by checking and verifying field data sheets.
- Support general team operations, including assisting in cooking or camp setup on overnight trips.
- Gear cleaning and maintenance.
- Sample transport and delivery to partner labs and campuses within the SCALE consortium.
- Some basic laboratory work including sample preparation, storage, and support.

Lodging is NOT provided for this position. Work may occasionally involve overnight trips. Position runs May through October. Preference will be given to candidates available to renew position for 2027.

Qualifications

AFC is seeking responsible and dependable individuals who meet the following qualifications:

- B.S. or B.A. in Biology, Environmental Studies or related field; OR currently enrolled at an accredited college/university pursuing a degree in Environmental Science or related field.
- Valid driver's license and the ability to spend long hours in a vehicle.
- Must be able to work long days and occasional overnight trips.
- Comfortable working in remote backcountry settings under a variety of weather conditions.
- Able to perform moderately strenuous fieldwork, including occasional long-distance hikes with heavy loads (lift up to 40lbs), and long periods spent paddling and sampling from a canoe, including hauling fish nets.
- Demonstrated ability to work on a field team.
- Experience with navigation and map reading.
- Must be able to acquire housing, lodging is NOT provided.
- Operation of boats and motors is a plus.
- Prefer candidates with availability in 2026 and 2027.

About AFC

Since 1998, AFC has been working with landowners, local, state, and federal government, NGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders to conserve the valued resources of the Ausable watershed. AFC's conservation programs provide transferable solutions to issues that challenge many watersheds. We undertake rigorous monitoring to mitigate the effects of pollutants on aquatic life and drinking water; provide early detection, education, and outreach to reduce invasive species threats; assess the abundance of aquatic native species, such as brook trout, and work to protect their habitat; and we restore the health and balance of our streams, sustaining ecological diversity and providing flood resilience for our communities. See our website: http://www.ausablecenter.org/ for more details.

About SCALE

A changing climate is one of the greatest 21st century stressors to the natural resources of the Adirondack region, including the Park's more than 3,000 lakes and their watersheds. Even as the region recovers from a century of acid rain, impacts from a changing climate and other threats are becoming evident. Despite the protected status of Adirondack ecosystems, in the decades ahead impacts of a warming climate are expected to alter Adirondack ecology. Understanding the nature of these changes requires identifying sentinel ecosystems and monitoring responses.

To understand the change taking place in lakes Adirondack wide a consortium of scientists has come together to create the next generation environmental study: the Survey of Climate and Adirondack Lake Ecosystems (SCALE). Building on the insights gained from the Adirondack Lakes Survey of the 1980s and incorporating the latest technology along with a better understanding of chemical and biological relationships, SCALE will endeavor to establish a new chemical and ecological baseline for Adirondack lakes and try to answer several crucial questions which will help to shape management and mitigation practices in the face of a changing climate.

How to Apply

Submit a cover letter explaining your interest and specific qualifications (specifically detailing your field experience), a resume, and contact information for three professional references as one PDF document to hiring@ausablecenter.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through March 18, 2026. Please type the position title "**Field Technician**" and your last name in the subject line.