

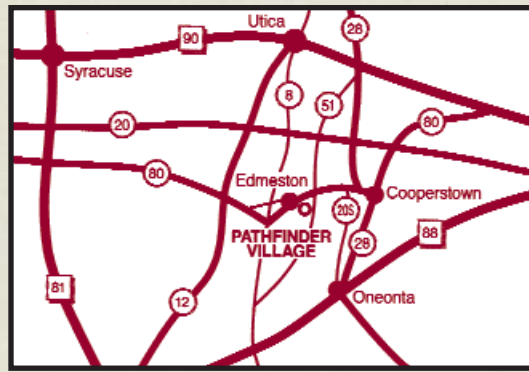
**As a college student, you've heard the phrase, "You can't get a job without experience; you can't get experience without a job." It's a frustrating Catch 22.**

### **Until now.**

Undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in gaining real-life, professional experience are invited to apply for internships at Pathfinder Village, a warm-and-wonderful residential community that serves the needs of men, women, and children who have Down syndrome. The Village, working through its outreach and education center, the Kennedy•Willis Center on Down Syndrome, will work with you and your college or university to develop an internship program that will meet your professional and educational goals, your college's credit requirements, and provide invaluable learning experiences.

### **Interested?**

Read on to determine if an internship at Pathfinder Village is the first step to a rewarding career.



Pathfinder Village is located on State Route 80, two miles east of Edmeston, 15 miles west of Cooperstown, and is about 1.5 hours from Albany, Binghamton and Syracuse.

#### **Contact Us:**

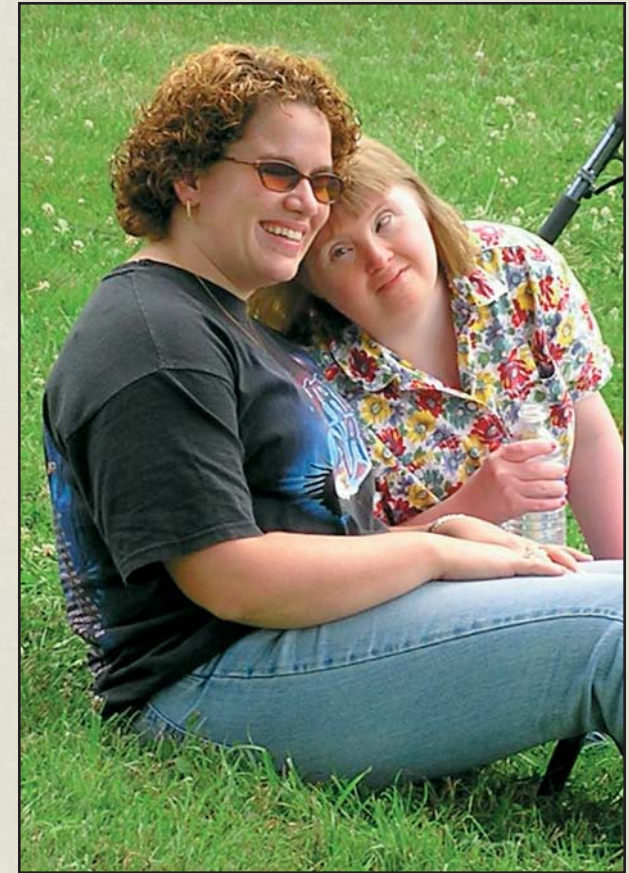
**The Kennedy•Willis Center on Down Syndrome  
Pathfinder Village  
3 Chenango Road  
Edmeston, New York 13335-2314  
(607) 965-6356  
[rwestgate@pathfinder.tzo.com](mailto:rwestgate@pathfinder.tzo.com)  
[www.pathfindervillage.org](http://www.pathfindervillage.org)**

*"When I went through the internship at Pathfinder Village I was in the Elementary Education program at SUNY Oneonta. After working with the Pathfinder Village students, I realized that I wanted to be a Special Education teacher. I liked being able to work more one-on-one with the students ... I loved to see the smiles on their faces when teaching a new lesson. I felt like I really made a difference.*

*I am now a Special Education teacher working with high school students. During summers I teach at a vocational program – a functional country store that the students run. I often reflect on the skills and experience that I learned while at Pathfinder Village for my summer program.*

*Shannon Aeschbacher  
Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School*

# **EXPERIENCE**



**Gain Real-Life  
Experience  
through the  
Internship Program  
at  
Pathfinder Village**

## What is Pathfinder Village?

Founded in 1980, Pathfinder Village is a non-profit, residential community for people who have Down syndrome. It is located near Edmeston, NY.



## What is Down syndrome?

It is an irreversible genetic condition that manifests itself in cognitive disabilities, physical impairments, and immunological deficiencies.

## What is the Kennedy•Willis Center?

The Kennedy•Willis Center on Down Syndrome is the Village's outreach arm. It provides hands-on education, and support for professionally conducted research on Down syndrome. Since 1996, the Center has sponsored conferences, counseled families, and provided learning opportunities for students, educators, and healthcare professionals.

## Who may apply for internships?

Students with a 2.0 GPA may apply. The credit hours required for an internship will be determined by your college and Pathfinder Village. Students should have credits in any of these areas: Administration/Business, Education, Child Development, Nursing, Physical Education, Psychology, Sociology or Speech.

## How long are internships?

A Pathfinder Village internship is a program designed by you to help you meet your educational goals. Programs may run several weeks or as long as a semester.

## Is there an application deadline?

No, but it is best to submit the completed application three months before the start of the semester.

## When are the internships scheduled?

Internships are available in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

## What will I do each day?

That depends on the goals you and your instructors establish. Areas of emphasis may include Administration, Art Instruction, Child Development, Development & Public Affairs, Food Service, Music Instruction, Nursing, Physical Education, Recreation Programming, Residential Management, Social Services, Special Education, and Speech/Language.

## Will I have a mentor?

Your mentor throughout the internship will be Rosanne J. Westgate, Ph.D., Director of the Kennedy • Willis Center. Dr. Westgate served as the Director of Special Education for 27-years at several public school districts on Long Island before her tenure at Pathfinder Village. She is an adjunct instructor in Human Services for the State University at Morrisville, and teaches at the State University College at Cortland.

## Where will I live?

Interns who live within driving distance to Pathfinder Village will be encouraged to commute. Students living outside the area may be provided reasonably priced room-and-board in the Village through special arrangement. (An agreement specifying living arrangements, payment, expectations, and adherence to Village policies must be signed by the intern or his parent/guardian if the applicant is under age 21).



## Can I get college credit?

Pathfinder Village and the Kennedy•Willis Center staff will work with your college/university to ensure you receive credits for your internship. However, it is incumbent upon the intern to determine with their advisor how many credits will be awarded, and how much will be charged for the credit hours.



## Do I get paid?

Students do not receive wages or stipends during internships at Pathfinder Village.

## How do I apply?

The first step is to schedule a tour of Pathfinder Village, meet the residents, and review your internship goals with Dr. Westgate.

From there, you should speak to your professors or dean about an internship, determining the length/timing of the program, housing and travel considerations, credit hours, costs, as well as progress reports and additional work that may need to be submitted. Once this is determined, it should be submitted to Dr. Westgate for review. Due to limited resources, not all applicants are selected for internships.

## What are the pre-requisites?

It is recommended that students have completed initial coursework in Psychology, Sociology, Child Development, Education, Human Services or other courses related to working with people who have disabilities. Interns must provide proof of immunizations and a current physical to participate. Students under age 21 need parental consent to participate in the program.

*“It has truly been my pleasure to be able to participate in this small-scale observational study and I have indeed broadened my understanding of Down syndrome ... I won't soon forget this wonderful experience or all the amazing new friends I have.”*

*Sarah Camp  
Intern from Smith College*