The Adirondack Council is a non-profit, non-governmental organization and the largest conservation advocacy organization in the Adirondacks. Our mission is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations. The Council’s vision is of an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working forests and farms and vibrant local communities. The Council uses the best science, the law, and an understanding of political decision making to educate, inform and motivate the public and those who make public policy. We recognize the importance of consensus building to achieve objectives, respecting the legitimate values of local governments and residents, and partnering with other non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies.

Clarence Petty, a native and resident of the Adirondacks until his death at the age of 104, spent his lifetime working to ensure good stewardship of the state’s public lands and sound decision-making about private land use in the Adirondack Park. As a former Adirondack Council Board member, Clarence was a mentor to many advocates for the Adirondack Park. The creation of a memorial to Clarence in the form of the internship program not only honors Clarence appropriately, but also recognizes that educating young people about the Adirondack Park is an important mission and legacy of our own.

The Clarence Petty internship program provides an opportunity for college or university students who have completed their junior year, and are studying Natural Resources, Conservation, or a related Environmental Science field that embodies the ideals of Clarence Petty. The summer internship offers exposure to many conservation issues impacting the six-million-acre Adirondack Park, working directly with the Conservation Director, Conservation Fellow, and staff in the fund development, marketing, and communications programs that support the mission of the Adirondack Council.

Recent interns have provided public policy and conservation research, participated in public meetings regarding state land management, taken responsibility for marketing efforts, represented the Council in community outreach, and assisted in fundraising and membership projects. With members in all 50 states and overseas, and an annual operating budget of $1.5 million, the Council is able to offer interns a work experience with a nationally recognized non-profit in their field of interest while also educating young adults about the complex conservation issues in the Adirondack Park. The internships are offered for a two- to three-month period, but terms are flexible.
While minimal fieldwork is a component of this position, the most critical advocacy and conservation work often takes place in a conference room, on the telephone, and most certainly at a desk in front of a computer. The ideal candidate is:

- Passionate about the environment
- Social-media savvy
- GIS smart
- Able to work independently and as a member of a team
- Dedicated to the Adirondacks and the mission of the Council
- Interested in learning how to further blend these skills as a well-rounded conservation professional

Clarence Petty Interns have continued with study in public policy, pursued environmental law degrees, or launched careers in natural resource management. Interning with the Adirondack Council has helped students clarify their education and career objectives and given them the advantage of experiential training in their field. In return, the Adirondack Council has benefited from the enthusiasm and interest of people new to the field and the extra personnel to tackle larger projects. Past interns have joined the staff of conservation organizations, legislative representatives, and state agencies, and have also returned to the Council as full-time employees. Students are provided with a stipend of $1,000 per month and reimbursement for their associated travel and materials costs. Important to note, housing is not available through this internship.

To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to Susan Hughes at shughes@adirondackcouncil.org or by mail to The Adirondack Council, PO Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932. The deadline for the Adirondack Council Summer Clarence Petty Internship application is March 15, 2015. For additional information, Susan may be reached at (518) 873-2240, ext 100.