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Internships integrate education, career development, and public service, preparing students for future jobs in a variety of fields including environmental science, engineering, marketing, policy, and research. Interns may work on projects such as legislative affairs, GIS shoreline mapping, communications, or wildlife education.

All interns will work 40 hours per week for 10 weeks, earning a \$15-per-hour stipend. The program runs from May 18 through July 24, 2026, and includes enrichment activities such as virtual seminars and executive chat sessions with state leaders.

Since its founding in 1969, the program has awarded more than 4,600 internships to North Carolina college students. It is open to all North Carolina residents enrolled in a college, university, technical institute, or community college. Internship formats may be in-person or hybrid depending on the assignment.

“Countless current and former state employees began their public service careers by working as a state government intern,” said Youth Programming Manager Jean McBride. “It’s a great way to gain valuable experience while forming lasting relationships.”

The North Carolina Internship Council oversees application review and selection, based on academic achievement and demonstrated interest in public service. Qualified candidates will also be interviewed by potential supervisors.

Former interns share their experiences in videos and testimonials available at ncadmin.nc.gov/advocacy/youth/state-internship-program.

Details and application information are available by emailing Jean.McBride@doa.nc.gov or visit ncadmin.nc.gov/advocacy/youth/state-internship-program.

Students may also visit their campus career services or cooperative education office for assistance.

Love Thyself Workshop Planned in Morven

A community-centered self-care event will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2026, when the Love Thyself: A Self Love Workshop is held from noon to 2:00 p.m. at Holla Community Development, located at 229 Main Street in Morven.

The workshop is open to all and offers free entry, along with free food and drinks. Organizers describe the event as a chance for participants to relax, reconnect, and recharge in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Both adult and youth workshops will be offered, making the event suitable for a wide range of ages. Activities are designed to encourage self-love, personal reflection, and positive connection within the community.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP in advance using the QR code. The Love Thyself workshop aims to promote wellness, mindfulness, and community connection through an afternoon of meaningful engagement.



Wine & Dine on the Rails Returns
to the N.C. Transportation Museum

An elegant evening where the train moves slowly and the wine does not

The North Carolina Transportation Museum is once again inviting guests to trade car keys for train tickets as its popular Wine & Dine on the Rails event rolls back into the station February 13 through 15. This annual favorite promises an evening of elegance, romance, and just enough motion to remind diners they are, in fact, on a train.

The evening begins with a cocktail hour before boarding, giving guests time to sip, mingle, and admire the historic surroundings before settling in for a leisurely train ride around the museum’s 60-acre site. Once aboard, a three-course meal is served as the train glides along at a pace that encourages conversation, eye contact, and possibly a second glass of wine.

Each passenger receives three drink tickets good for wine or beer, redeemable either before boarding or during the ride. Additional drinks will be available for purchase, because sometimes three tickets simply feel like a warm-up lap.

Tickets are priced at \$140 per person for members and \$145 per person for non-members, plus tax. Private dining aboard the historic Doris rail car has already sold out, proving once again that romance and rail cars are a powerful combination. Seating is still available in other cars, though Saturday, February 14 is fully booked. Limited tickets remain for Friday, February 13 and Sunday, February 15, but they are disappearing faster than dessert at the last table.

All guests must be at least 21 years of age and present valid photo identification at check-in. Tickets may be purchased at: nctransportationmuseum.org/wine-and-dine, procrastination is strongly discouraged.

Wine & Dine on the Rails is operated by the non-profit N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation, which hosts special events throughout the year to support museum operations. Foundation officials note that many guests attend for the dining experience and later return to explore the museum during regular hours—sometimes with fewer wine glasses involved.

For additional information, visit www.nctransportationmuseum.org/wine-and-dine or call the museum at 704-636-2889.

Spencer is located about 60 miles north of Wadesboro via Highway 52. **About the N.C. Transportation Museum** The N.C. Transportation Museum is located at 1 Samuel Spencer Dr., Spencer, N.C. The mailing address is 411 Salisbury Ave., Spencer, N.C. 28159. The physical address is 1 Samuel Spencer Dr., Spencer, NC 28159. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, and closed Monday.



College Students Can Now Apply for
Summer Internships in State Government Agencies

Application deadline is January 30

College students across North Carolina can now apply for summer internship opportunities with state government agencies. Administered by the NC Department of Administration’s Division for Women and Youth, the annual competitive program offers 10-week paid internships for students interested in careers in public service.

“As a former intern with the North Carolina Department of Justice, I know firsthand how much summer interns get to grow as they learn about the impact public service has on our communities,” said Governor Josh Stein. “No matter which department or division our interns support, they help our government make positive change.”

“The State of NC Internship Program nurtures student interest in public service while providing hands-on career development experience,” said NC Department of Administration Secretary Gabriel J. Esparza. “For more than 50 years, this internship program has been a great stepping stone for students seeking state government careers.”

Students can search and apply for internships by agency, location, and field of study using the online application portal. This year’s program will offer 100 internships statewide, with placements ranging from Buncombe County in the mountains to Dare County at the coast. Applications are open through January 30, 2026.

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‘Writing Your Story’ Workshop

Everyone has a story to tell. Perhaps you lived an adventurous life and want it documented, traveled widely and wish to share your experiences, or simply want to leave a written record for your grandchildren and future generations.

A workshop led by Joseph Bathanti, author of 20 books spanning poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, is designed to help participants begin shaping their life stories. Bathanti will present “Writing the Memoir” from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Jan.31 at the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. The cost is \$45 and includes a catered lunch.

Bathanti is a former Poet Laureate of North Carolina, serving from 2012 to 2014, and the recipient of the 2016 North Carolina Award for Literature. He was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in 2024 and is a Distinguished Professor at Appalachian State University. Bathanti also has a special connection to Anson County, having served as an Artist in Residence here during the 1980s.

Those wishing to register before January 28 may call or text Sandy Bruney at 704-949-7523 or email info@ansoncountywritersclub.org.

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