



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

COMMUNICATIONS

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LDEQ Opens Application Period for 2026 Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP)

BATON ROUGE, LA — The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is now accepting applications for the 2026 Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP), a competitive summer internship designed to provide undergraduate and graduate students with hands-on experience in environmental protection and public service. The application period closes Feb. 5.

LEAP offers students an eight-week immersive experience beginning June 1, 2026, with placements across LDEQ programs including but not limited to air and water assessment, permitting, emergency response, remediation, enforcement, legal, communications, accounting, and audit services. Interns work alongside agency professionals on real-world projects, participate in educational seminars, and engage in field activities that demonstrate how environmental regulations are implemented across Louisiana.



Summer 2025 LEAP interns pose for a photo at the program kickoff.

“LEAP represents an investment in Louisiana’s future,” **LDEQ Secretary Courtney J. Burdette said.** “By giving students meaningful, hands-on experience in environmental protection and government operations, we are building a strong pipeline of talent committed to protecting public health, our natural resources, and the communities we serve.”

The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students in relevant fields of study, including science, engineering, business, communications, legal studies, and related disciplines. Interns receive pay and may also obtain course credit, depending on their academic program.

“LEAP allows students to go beyond the classroom and see how their studies translate into real-world impact,” **Tomeka Prioleau, LEAP program manager, said.** “Through mentoring, professional development seminars and collaborative projects with staff, interns gain valuable skills while contributing directly to LDEQ’s mission.”

In recent years, LEAP has proven to be a successful pathway into public service, with some participants choosing to continue their careers with LDEQ after completing the program.

For more information about the 2026 Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program, please visit: www.deq.louisiana.gov/LEAP.

Students interested in applying to the program may submit an application here:

[https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/louisiana?department\[0\]=Department%20of%20Environmental%20Quality&&keywords=student](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/louisiana?department[0]=Department%20of%20Environmental%20Quality&&keywords=student).

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About the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

LDEQ is dedicated to serving the people of Louisiana by providing comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect health, safety and welfare.
