

LOOKOUT NEWSROOM INTERNSHIPS



OVERVIEW

Launched in fall of 2020, [Lookout Santa Cruz](#) is the region's largest news company and is quickly becoming the go-to new source for thousands of readers in Santa Cruz County. Our [newsroom of 10](#) counts 140 years of collective experience, providing excellent mentoring opportunities for our interns.

Our digital-only, mobile-first modern media products – including across social media, five newsletters, email and text alerts, forums and events – drive our fundamental mission: to serve Santa Cruz County with a new and higher standard of news, information and community engagement.

Lookout Santa Cruz has begun the local news reboot that communities around this country need now more than ever. We are now planning expansion to other communities. Founded by [news analyst](#) Ken Doctor, Lookout's innovation is being [watched](#) around the country — both in its mobile-first local news product and service, and in its business model, borrowed from the New York Times and scaled down. We've summed up our model and learnings [here](#).

WHAT TO EXPECT

As a digital news startup, Lookout's internship opportunities are limited only by interns' interests and ambitions. We'll work together to tailor an experience that will be mutually valuable.

Our coverage has ranged from breaking news stories about the recent storms and the 2022 elections to deeper dives into overcrowding in the women's jail, a fentanyl epidemic among teenagers, pesticide use near schools, and human interest features like [Unsung Santa Cruz](#), a series highlighting everyday heroes in the community.

Depending on interns' skills and passions, they will be able to write features, create a specialized beat, dig into investigations, build out data journalism projects, write newsletters, or help build out our social media operations. Those with an interest in visual journalism will have

the opportunity to take photographs and produce videos, create graphics, or do interactive visual storytelling. We are also open to interns who would like to pursue copy editing or audience development.

In the last four months, our newsroom interns have worked on a wide variety of stories, including:

- Breaking news coverage of the damaging [winter storms](#), the systemwide [UC strike](#) and a series of [active shooter hoaxes](#) at local high schools.
- Social media posts helping us build [Instagram posts and Reels](#).
- Photography: spot news, portraits and features.
- Coverage of the 2022 [midterm elections](#), including [building interactive](#) maps illustrating the outcomes of several important local races.
- Feature stories, including a piece about how [scientists are working to restore](#) the local oyster population.
- Coverage the [local food scene](#) and [small business](#).

In all of our work, we prize smart, thoughtful, connect-the-dots reporting and storytelling with voice. Our readers increasingly depend on us to explain the why and how of the many community issues swirling around them.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are seeking a Stanford University Rebele intern who embraces our mission and wants to work with those plowing new ground in American journalism. We'll evaluate applicants based on their own goals and skills, and on the best possible match for their interests. We take mentorship seriously.

Essential requirements:

- Fundamental reporting and writing skills.
- A passion for meaningful local journalism.
- A tech-savvy person who can help us reach the audience of now and the future, and be sharply focused on that mission — particularly the mobile experience.
- A creative problem-solver. Being solutions-oriented is critical to Lookout's culture and plays an important role in our decision-making process.
- A detail-oriented and self-motivated team player with great communication. You have identified the things that drive you — and sometimes wake you up in the middle of the night — and you are planning to go places in this burgeoning new media landscape.

Bonus points for:

- Bilingual English/Spanish.
- Demonstrated creativity in story idea creation.
- Experience working with social media campaigns.
- Experience with analytics tools and key metrics/KPIs.
- Knowledge of web development and production.
- Digitally driven research abilities.

If you're looking for these things, you should apply:

- A fast-moving digital news environment.
- Learning about digital tools/software that now power news operations.
- A meaningful experience that will grow your skill set and resume.
- A startup environment where everyone has a voice and helps formulate every part of the company (yes, even interns).
- A collaborative, ever-changing work environment where no one day is quite the same.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a cover letter explaining why you're interested in working with Lookout, along with a resume, samples of published clips or relevant class assignments and references to these three addresses:

- internships@lookoutlocal.com
- ken@lookoutlocal.com
- tamsin@lookoutlocal.com