

DNREC

2026 Internship Program



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

dnrec.delaware.gov/internships

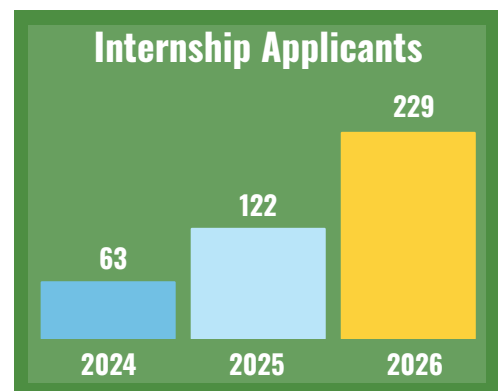
2026 Summer Interns

The third cohort of the DNREC Internship Program started in May 2026. We welcomed 18 interns in positions across every Division and provided them with in-depth experiences in their field of interest. Interns were recruited for up to 12 weeks of full time work in a mix of field, office, and hybrid roles. Staying competitive with other local opportunities, pay increased this year to \$18.50/hour.



Continuing to build on the success of previous cohorts, the Department leveraged university job fairs, local recruiter networks, and a closed application period that launched earlier in the year to nearly double our applicant pool for the second year in a row. In the month of February, internship-related documents were the most downloaded type of document on the DNREC website, with over 2,200 downloads of program descriptions, application guides and the 2025 Internship Report.

New opportunities in 2026 included two roles in the Office of Budget and Finance: Environmental Finance and Fiscal Management Payroll internships. For the second year in a row, the Coastal Research Internship attracted the most applicants. Nearly half of all internship applicants attend or recently graduated from the University of Delaware, a pattern we've seen yearly since the program's inception.



50% of applicants attend a DE college

13 out of 18 hired interns were DE residents

Programming

In addition to work in their areas of interest, we provided the interns with opportunities to gather as a cohort and interact with leadership and each other, building relationships that we hope will continue beyond their experience at DNREC. We kicked off the summer with an orientation event, followed by a classic Field Trip Friday with Secretary Greg Patterson and Deputy Secretary Dayna Cobb. To thank our interns and provide an opportunity for reflection, participants and their supervisors were also invited to a Wrap Party in August.



Field Trip Friday: Meet the Secretary & Scavenger Hunt

Following a Q&A with agency leadership, the interns were sent on a scavenger hunt to meet key staff headquartered in DNREC's R&R Building and wrapped up the event with a networking luncheon. [Click to get a peek behind the scenes with a short video](#) produced by our Office of Communications Marketing Communications Intern, **Dorien Scott**.

Wrap Party: Intern → Merit Employee Pathways

The highlight of the Wrap Party was a discussion with **Semaj Bungy-Carter**, a Environmental Scientist II in the Division of Air Quality. Semaj was in our inaugural 2024 DNREC Intern cohort and shared how his internship with the Division of Watershed Stewardship helped prepare him for success in his current role.

The cohort also had the opportunity to share important learning and skills developed over the course of the summer. In a post-season survey, 100% of respondents reported having a supervisor who provided mentorship and supported the intern's career growth.



↑
Semaj at a 2024 intern event. He is 1 of 6 former interns now employed with the State.

In their own words

This year, the Office of Communications was invited to attend each of our events to speak one-on-one with interns. The result is a series of short-form video interviews shared to @DelawareDNREC social media channels, providing insight into the experiences and valuable contributions of DNREC interns. Click the images below to be redirected to LinkedIn.



Justin Dorce (Middletown, DE) is learning about past environmental efforts by transferring historical records into modern data systems. His **EQulS Internship** with the Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances is data-driven.



Faith Hewes (Smyrna, DE) recently graduated college and is preparing for a career as an agriculture teacher. She says her **Aquatic Education Internship** is helping bridge the gap between the classroom and the field.



Max Rial (Lewes, DE) knows that protecting Delaware's natural resources starts with people who have a passion for the outdoors. He is using his GIS background to do just that as a **Water Quality Specialist Intern**.

All photos courtesy of DNREC photographers Errol Ebanks.