



Environmental Field Specialist Intern

Type of Recruitment: Casual Seasonal (Summer Intern)

Pay: \$18.50 per hour

Agency: DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship / Watershed Assessment Branch

Employment Term: Full-time / 12 Weeks

Location(s): 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958 | 285 Beiser Boulevard, Suite 102, Dover, DE 19904

Introduction

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Division of Watershed Stewardship uses a comprehensive array of watershed-based programs to manage and protect the State's natural resources. Within this Division, the Watershed Assessment Section oversees programs and initiatives related to water quality, habitat and biological monitoring, assessment and restoration. This part-time position supports field-based monitoring of aquatic and wetland habitats and assists with implementation and support of restoration projects across Delaware. For more information, visit dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/assessment and dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/assessment/sav. You can also visit the DNREC website at dnrec.delaware.gov and connect with @DelawareDNREC on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter) or LinkedIn.

Summary Statement

DNREC is seeking an Environmental Field Specialist Intern to assist with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring, water quality data collection, wetland condition assessments, and assistance with habitat restoration activities such as SAV, wetland plants, oysters/shellfish, and other small-scale restoration efforts. The position conducts field surveys using

established monitoring protocols, including wading, kayaking, and small-vessel methods. Duties include collecting environmental and habitat data, documenting site conditions, assisting with restoration activities, and supporting data management and technical documentation. The position works in coordination with program staff and restoration specialists and supports seasonal fieldwork, data quality, and project needs as assigned.

Through this internship with DNREC's Watershed Assessment Section, the successful intern will gain the following:

- Hands-on Experience – by providing practical, hands-on experience characterizing water quality related to existing SAV beds, monitoring SAV throughout the state and assist with restoration of SAV and shellfish.
- Skill Development – by providing a platform for developing and honing a wide range of skills, including field sampling, data collection, communication, problem-solving, and project management - valuable skills in both academic and professional settings.
- Networking Opportunities – by offering a chance to network with professionals in the SAV and aquatic restoration field. Building these connections can be instrumental in future career advancement and accessing job opportunities.
- Resume Enhancement – by interning with the Watershed Assessment and Management Section, one can enhance a resume through an internship by demonstrating practical experience, and a willingness to learn and contribute to important initiatives.
- Understanding of Environmental Regulations – by gaining insight into environmental regulations and policies related to water quality and SAV monitoring and seeing first-hand how those regulations further the State's ability to further SAV restoration in the Delaware Inland Bays.
- Personal Growth – by providing hands-on opportunities, interns often face new challenges and responsibilities that can help them develop confidence, resilience, and adaptability.

Overall, interning with the Watershed Assessment and Management Section can be a rewarding experience, offering valuable skills, knowledge, and connections that can benefit interns, both personally and professionally.

Job Duties

- Conduct field-based monitoring of aquatic and wetland habitats using established protocols, with a focus on SAV.
- Navigate field sites via swimming, wading, kayaking, and small vessels in tidal and non-tidal waters in sometimes adverse weather conditions such as high heat, humidity, and buggy.
- Assist with implementation of SAV, wetlands, and shellfish restoration activities as needed.
- Participate actively in professional development training sessions.
- Participate actively in program meetings as needed and adhere to safety protocols during all field and restoration activities.

Job Requirements

Provide a cover letter along with your resume and application, detailing your interest in the internship and how it aligns with your career goals.

Applicants must have education, training and/or experience demonstrating competence in each of the following areas. Experience gained through school projects or unrelated employment will be considered.

- Must be a current college student or recent college graduate, preferably in environmental science, natural resources, or other related environmental field.
- Six months' experience following scientific methods, directions, or instructions.
- Proficiency with the operation of mobile devices for data entry.
- Six months' experience using Microsoft Office products.

- Familiarity with project management, such as planning, implementing, managing, and projects to ensure objectives are met.
- Familiarity with environmental field sampling.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work effectively in potentially hot and humid weather conditions, including in water work.
- Ability to perform tasks that may involve bending, lifting, and carrying objects weighing up to 30 lbs.
- Ability to work in natural waterbodies, both marine and freshwater, for SAV monitoring and restoration which may include wading, swimming and snorkeling.
- Regard for, and ability to follow, State and Department policies, particularly safety.

Additional Posting Information

- The position is flexible as to start date and is for a maximum 12-week term.
- The position will not exceed 37.5 hours per week with a regular schedule of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, including a 30-minute lunch break. This position is eligible for Telework and Alternative Work Schedules according to the State of Delaware’s Alternative Work Arrangement Policy. Schedule will be established at the time of hire.
- The intern will primarily work at the office located at 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE, 19958. Additional workdays will be at the Dover office, located in the Enterprise Building, 285 Beiser Boulevard, Suite 102, Dover, DE 19904.
- This position will have responsibilities which require travel throughout the State. The intern is responsible for transportation to the primary office location. The State of Delaware provides transportation services from the primary location to State agencies or other locations as needed.
- Casual/Seasonal Employees are not eligible for state plan benefits.

Condition of Hire

As a condition of hire, applicants must possess a valid driver's license (not suspended, revoked or canceled, or disqualified from driving).

Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States. DNREC does not provide sponsorship for holders of H-1 B Visas.

The State of Delaware Executive Branch participates in the Federal E-Verify system. The State will provide the federal government with each new hire's Form I-9 information to confirm that they are authorized to work in the U.S. For more information refer to our job seeker resources.

Selection Process

The application and supplemental questionnaire are evaluated based upon a rating of education, training and experience as they relate to the job requirements of the position. It is essential that applicants provide complete and accurate information on their application and the supplemental questionnaire to include dates of employment, job title and job duties. For education and training, list the name of educational providers, training course titles and a summary of course content. Narrative information supplied in response to the questions must be supported by the information supplied on the application including employment, education and training history as it relates to the job requirements.

Once an application has been submitted, all future correspondence related to the application will be sent via email. Please keep contact information current.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available for applicants with disabilities in all phases of the application and employment process. To request auxiliary aid or service, call 302-739-5458. TDD users should call the Delaware Relay Service Number 800-232-5460 for assistance.

2026 DNREC Internship Program

The State of Delaware is an Equal Opportunity employer and values a diverse workforce. We strongly encourage and seek out a workforce representative of Delaware including race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.