

A Process to Develop Rewarding Natural Resources Internships

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The Process:

- Develop a Plan, Protocol, or Procedure

The Protocol:

- Define an Internship *“An internship is a temporary employment position with an emphasis on more rigorous on-the-job training and education rather than merely employment. An internship could be paid or un-paid and can occur either during the academic year or summer. University credit is often granted for the internship.”*

- Encourage student participation.

Advertise

Emphasize the benefits

Explain the process

Internships

Meaningful Work Experience

Earn College Credit

Enhance Your Employment Potential

Many Summer Jobs Qualify

Distinguish Yourself



Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences



Wildlife Science



Recreation Resources Management



Geography



Environmental Studies



Rangeland Resources



Forestry



Watershed and Earth Systems



Conservation and Restoration Ecology

How Can I Participate?

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Positions Advertised as Internships

SUMMER INTERN/ SEASONAL POSITION 2012

Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Division

Typical Duties

- 1. Restroom maintenance and cleaning**
2. Treatment of invasive weeds, including application of watershed-safe herbicide
3. Assist in land management programs
- 4. Assist with recreation site maintenance, including trail maintenance, trash pickup, brush pruning, etc.**
5. Mapping of invasive weeds
6. Lead environmental education fieldtrips
7. Assist in Watershed Ranger patrols

Summer 2012 Paid Internship Opportunity Wildlife Brigade, Grand Teton National Park

DETAILS

1. Intern will be required to display a pleasant, helpful and professional attitude during daily contact with park visitors. Interactions with visitors who are disgruntled or in violation of regulations will occasionally occur, requiring tact, patience, and other social skills.
2. Intern will work in close proximity to bears, moose, and other large, potentially dangerous mammals. Some assistance to biologists and rangers in nuisance bear management situations may be required, as well as directing visitor activities when observing animals at close range.
3. Work may require both independent work/decision making as well as coordination with other Wildlife Brigade members.
- 4. Work will be performed mostly outside with significant time standing and/or walking, sometimes in cold, heat, or other inclement weather.**
5. Students may use this internship to satisfy academic requirements, e.g. to fulfill internship requirements, senior thesis, etc.

Positions Advertised as Seasonal/Temporary

Forestry Technician (Timber Sale Preparation)

Duties

1. This position would serve as a crew lead for a timber crew, as **an assistant for sale layout and preparation.**
2. They would also implement various assigned targets i.e.: **reforestation, timber stand improvement, stand exams, small sale and permit administration,** and the maintenance of timber equipment.

Visitor Services Information Assistant position

Duties include but are not limited to:

1. **Greeting visitors and providing public information at the front office**
2. Answering phone and email requests for information
3. **Development and presentation of informational exhibits in the visitor center**
4. Maintaining brochures in visitor center and outdoor kiosk
5. **Developing and presenting interpretive programs**
6. **Act as liaison with local schools, the town of Yampa and other local organizations to provide environmental education**
7. **Update web pages for the Yampa Ranger District on the MBRTB website**
8. Collections Officer duties, such as selling maps, interagency passes, and forest timber products
9. Radio contact and monitoring for field going personnel
10. **Coordinating with staff specialists and forest Public Affairs personnel to keep self and front desk seasonal abreast of the latest forest/district news and information**
11. Posting information flyers and news releases on district information trap line

Benefits to Student

- Gain knowledge of employment demands and responsibilities in a favored organization
- Network with professionals in chosen field
- Help to make college education more relevant and meaningful
- Value-added learning, not just work
- Self-evaluation of personal strengths and weaknesses

Benefits to Hiring Organization

- Meaningful work from a dedicated and motivated worker
- Potential employee socialized into work environment
- Maybe unpaid position to gain work experience and college credit
- Work experience better organized with specific goals identified in advance

Benefits to Academic Institution

- Meaningful work experience bringing valuable case studies and examples to benefit the college
- Valuable recruitment and retention tool
- Encourage future internship experiences
- Valuable connection between the academic institution and the host organization
- Known for offering valuable voluntary and committed education experiences beyond the classroom/laboratory

- Identify the internship objectives:

Individualize

Job description

Anticipated product

Grading

Consensus among;

Student

University

Hiring organization

- Develop the Memorandum of Understanding:

Agreed upon objectives

Timeframe

Monitoring plan

Anticipated product

Signed by all parties

Student

University representative

Hiring organization

- Registering for credit:
 - University-wide course #
 - Fall semester following
 - 1-3 credits/internship
 - Rigor of experience
 - Stated goals
 - Difficulty of product
 - Elective credit
 - Graded A-F
 - Work performed
 - Extent objectives met
 - Employer involvement
 - Quality of product

The Process:

- **Monitoring:**

Planned and scheduled

Expectations

Student and employer

The Process:

- The Product:

Appropriateness

Report

Presentation

Poster

Usefulness

Involvement of employer

The Process:

- Evaluation

Student of experience

Employer of student

Employer of experience

University of student

University of experience

Successful Examples



European Starling Damage Management



Arctic Fox control in the Barrow Steller's Eider Conservation Planning Area



Invasive weed control



Airport wildlife conflict management



Brown trout removal project



Black bear telemetry tracking



Environmental Education

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