

Island Keeper Intern (Shorebird Monitor)

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

Location: Westbrook, Connecticut

Duration: May 20th to August 16th 2019

The Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge is seeking an enthusiastic individual to spend their summer on beautiful coastal Connecticut while gaining valuable, well-rounded experience working in shorebird conservation. This person will help monitor piping plover, least tern, American oystercatcher, and other shorebirds on the Refuge and may assist on state and private lands. The person will also act as the Island Keeper for the Refuge's Menunketesuck Island.

Duties include nest searching, monitoring nesting areas, talking with/educating the public, assisting with fencing/signage/exclosures, reporting on nest/chick productivity, entering data in various ways, conducting an inventory & monitoring survey to identify Refuge shorebird predators, and managing trail cameras for this study. The shorebird intern will also contact our island keepers and get regular updates on any shorebirds they have observed on the islands. Additionally, this intern may be required to visit the islands to survey/monitor which may include an overnight stay on the island in rustic housing. The shorebird intern will work in teams (with Refuge staff, State employees, and non-profit affiliates) and independently. The incumbent will need to drive a Refuge vehicle to and from monitoring sites (including large trucks), work in inclement weather conditions such as high muggy heat, be physically fit enough to walk miles on beaches in the sun and carry fence/sign posts. May also be required to monitor other species (e.g. wading birds, diamondback terrapins, and rare plants) and conduct management activities such as invasive plant control, maintaining fence and signage, etc. Incumbent will receive 80 hours of training in motor boat operations, first aid, visitor services, biological operations, safety and maintenance procedure.

Qualifications: Previous experience with shorebird monitoring, fieldwork, data collection, and wildlife identification is preferred. Applicants must have the ability to perform the physical duties of the position including being able to work in all kinds of weather and over different types of terrain. Applicants must be able to work with minimal supervision, be very independent and flexible, be able to work with the public of all ages in a professional manner, and possess a valid U. S. driver's license.

Send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least 3 professional references (must include email and phone number) by February 15, 2019 via email to: Kristina_Vagos@fws.gov. In the subject line, please enter "Shorebird Intern" and the first letter of your first name followed by your full last name. All application material should be titled similarly. Please do not send applications by mail. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and possible job offers will be made before February 15. Please submit your application as soon as possible.

Salary: A small living allowance of \$190.00/week and shared housing (if needed) will be provided.

Time Frame: The position will be 13 weeks. Standard start date is May 20, 2019; however,

applicants who can start earlier on May 6th or 13th will be given preference. The end date is August 16th. If the intern starts earlier, the end date will be earlier.

Last Day to Apply: February 15th 2019

Website:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/stewart_b_mckinney/

Contact: Kris Vagos

E-mail (preferred):

Kristina_Vagos@fws.gov

Phone: (860) 399-2513 ext. 8135