

Alaska U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
**2011 Student Employment Program**  
***Intern Request Form***

*Please Complete all information listed in BLUE*

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

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**FWS Office**

95 Sterling Highway

Homer

AK

99603

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**Address**

**City**

**State**

**Zip**

Heather Renner

(907)-226-4623

Heather\_Renner@fws.gov

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**FWS Project Leader**

**Phone**

**Email**

Nora Rojek or

Wildlife Biologist

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Nora\_Rojek@fws.gov

Jeff Williams

Wildlife Biologist

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**Intern Supervisor (if different)**

**Title**

**Phone**

**Email**

May, 1, 2012

Homer, Alaska

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**Start Date for internship**

**Location of Internship**

## Housing/Travel

NO

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**Does the internship location require the intern to have his own vehicle to get to work?**

NONE –walking and biking in Homer, walking in field camps

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**What kind of public transportation is available in the area?**

YES

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**Will you or another FWS staff be able to pick up the intern at the airport if needed?**

Homer

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**Nearest airport to the internship location**

Yes

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**Will your office be able to provide housing for your intern?**

Housing Description:

In Homer (pre and/or post field season) housing is available in Refuge bunkhouse. In field camps, housing is in cabins or weather ports. All housing is typically co-ed with shared sleeping spaces, shared kitchen, etc. Everyone shares equally in cooking dinner and doing camp chores. Most field camps are remote and cabins do not have running water and electric power is limited. Propane stoves are used for cooking and kerosene heaters are used for heating.

## Required Training

*Check all the apply to this position*

★	IT Security Training, QuickTime, General USFWS Overview
	Bear Safety
	Firearms
	Boat Safety and Operation
	Aircraft Safety( required for travel in government float planes
★	CPR and wilderness first aid
	ATV Training
★	Site/Job Specific (please describe): EXAMPLES: Some sites require boat safety and operation, ATV training, bear safety and/or firearms training. Training on field protocols and identifying Alaskan birds.

## Intern Position Description

Seasonal Biological Science Technician

GS-04, 05, 06, 07

**Position Title**

**GS or WG and what level?**

### DUTIES

*Please note the duties the intern will be performing*

As a **Biological Science Technician** you will:

- Assemble basic information on fish and wildlife populations and their habitat.
- Operate and maintain a variety of scientific field sampling equipment.
- Work and travel safely and effectively in difficult environmental conditions.
- Identify North American birds by sight.
- Capture and handle seabirds using appropriate techniques for study, measurement or sampling.
- Collect biological samples from birds.
- Complete data entry into Excel and Access.
- Work on remote field projects.
- Develop daily work schedules and set priorities.
- Facilitate field logistics through preparation of supplies for camp setup.
- For GS 06 and 07 positions, work as a crew leader for a team collecting avian biological data without daily or onsite supervision.

- For GS 06 and 07 positions, provide instruction to others on detailed data collection protocols, and analyze and summarize data.

## **EDUCATION LEVEL, SKILL, INTERESTS**

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*Please note specific skills, competencies, interests, classes selected, or other qualifications that would be useful for an intern to have in order to make a significant contribution on this project.*

This position requires **greater maturity** and **emotional resources** than positions that are solely office based. Field work is difficult with **strenuous working conditions** in remote environments with one or just a few other people. It is essential that the intern be **enthusiastic** and willing to **learn new skills** both scientific and outdoor oriented. The intern should also have exacting attention to detail for required data collection and management. Excellent physical condition is necessary to meet the strenuous demands these positions require.

Applicants will need to meet the minimum requirements to qualify as a Biological Science Technician at the applicable GS level. Interns should have experience identifying and monitoring nests of North American birds (particularly seabirds), experience with data entry, and experience working in remote field camps.

## **WORK CONDITIONS, CLOTHING GEAR**

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*Describe the work conditions (hours, dress code, environment/setting) and appropriate clothing/gear that the prospective intern should be aware of*

The projects we are recruiting for occur at annual monitoring sites on the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, where we conduct monitoring of breeding chronology, reproductive success, population changes, adult survival, and food habits of up to 15 species of seabirds.

In the spring and/or fall, limited office work, consist primarily of field prep or data entry and report writing, is conducted at the duty station in Homer, Alaska. During the summer, work will consist of field work conducted in remote island locations from southeast Alaska to the western Aleutians. Monitoring may take place at the following locations: Buldir (w. Aleutians), Aiktak (e. Aleutians), Chowiet (Semidi Is., Alaska Peninsula), Pribilof Islands (St. Paul & St. George, c. Bering Sea), E. Amatuli (Gulf of Alaska), and St. Lazaria (Gulf of Alaska). Living conditions on Buldir, Aiktak, Chowiet, E. Amatuli, and St. Lazaria are primitive and crew live in small cabins. Crews in the Pribilof Islands live in small villages with air service. Weather at all locations is typical of a northern maritime climate, and is usually cold, wet, and windy. Applicants should be able to work in locations with limited communication to the outside world.

The intern will be expected to work 40 hours per week and 8 hours overtime per week while in the field. The office is casual and there is no uniform. The intern should bring field clothes that they are comfortable getting dirty. They should bring their own rain gear (jacket and pants). It is also recommended that the intern bring clothes, such that he/she can dress in layers. The temperature in Alaska from May to August ranges from 35 – 70 degrees (F) and weather can change dramatically within a day, with changes in altitude and across the state. Thus, the ability to add and remove clothes based on weather conditions is important. There are places to buy outdoor gear in Homer.

Cotton clothing is not recommended for field work, but is fine for Homer-based duties. Cotton gets wet and if it is next to the skin can rapidly remove warmth from the body. Synthetic fibers such as polypropylene, capilene, polar fleece, etc. are preferred. Wool is a good natural fiber as it keeps its "warmth" even when wet.

Also, the intern should bring, gloves, a warm hat, a baseball cap, sunglasses, hiking boots, comfortable loose clothing since the job entails being outside and strenuous hiking.

FWS to Provide: Any equipment needed in the field, such as Rain gear, waterproof boots, waders, backpacks, water bottles, sleeping bags, cook stoves, binoculars etc. Food provided while in the field.