

Chincoteague

National Wildlife Refuge Complex



2022 Visitor Services Internship Opportunities

Interns are an essential part of operations at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Once selected, you will become a dynamic member of our skilled and motivated team. Together we will harness the power of communication, science, and innovation to increase visitors' enjoyment and understanding of wildlife refuges while actively monitoring and protecting the wildlife that call this refuge home.

Sound like your kind of place? You supply the time and interest, and we'll provide the experience of a lifetime.



Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh, and maritime forest. We have been designated as a Globally Important Bird Area and are one of National Audubon Society's top 10 birding hotspots. Migratory birds, the legendary Chincoteague ponies, and picturesque landscapes and a family friendly beach likewise attracts approximately 1.4 million visits annually! As the fifth most popular shorebird refuge east of the Rocky Mountains, it receives the third highest visitation in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Our high operational tempo offers numerous chances for interns to become acquainted with visitor services and a wide variety of refuge operations and management activities. As part of a Complex, some of these activities may be carried out at Chincoteague, Wallops Island, Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuges.



Visitor Services Internship: 12 weeks (May 16–August 5, 2022)

Three full time interns are needed to assist with connecting people to nature by providing high quality customer service in a variety of outlets and providing the public with safe, accessible, and high quality wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, along with maintained facilities at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia.

Primary responsibilities may include but are not limited to: providing high quality customer service at the Visitor Center, conducting informal talks atop the historic Assateague Lighthouse, social media engagement, temporary exhibit/sign design, and light vehicle and grounds maintenance.

Additional responsibilities may include but are not limited to: habitat management, facilities maintenance, special event planning, and interagency partnering.

Work involves frequent indoor and outdoor activities requiring some physical exertion such as walking over wet, rough, and uneven terrain; bending, crouching, stooping, reaching, lifting, or similar activities which may occur on weekends and some holidays and evenings.

Desired background of candidates include:

- Experience speaking in front of groups (including children and school groups)
- Knowledge of animal and plant identification
- Willingness to work in an outdoor setting that may involve extreme temperatures and exposure to biting insects.



General requirements:

- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Recent college graduate or current student in Resource Interpretation, Communication, Education, Environmental Science, Natural Resources Management, or related field is preferred. All majors are encouraged to apply.
- Must be able to work well independently and with others on a wide variety of tasks.
- Must have good oral communication and writing skills.
- Must have a willingness to work on weekends and some evenings.

Benefits:

- Experience of a lifetime!
- Free co-ed bunkhouse style lodging on Chincoteague NWR **(if COVID19 regulations allow)**.
 - Modern furnished facilities with laundry, Wi-Fi, and TV in common area.
- Professional development, training, and networking opportunities.
- FWS volunteer uniforms provided.

How to Apply:

Email one application package in PDF format to Laurel Wilkerson no later than February 20, 2022. Your application must include:

1. Cover letter
2. Resume
3. One character reference letter (must include email and phone number).
4. Two professional reference letters (must include email and phone number for each reference).
5. Unofficial copy of current college transcript.
6. To be considered, application packet must have all five items combined into one PDF file.

For more information contact:

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Park Ranger

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