



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

# Refuge Friends Inc. 2017 Conservation Internships

**Background Information:** The mission of Refuge Friends Inc. is to assist the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge with its mission to “work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance the fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefits of the American people.” As part of our objective to provide advocacy and raise awareness of the Refuge, we will be providing mentored internships to college students and recent graduates. These interns will work beside Refuge Friends Inc. and Refuge staff to learn what it is like to manage, restore and protect this unique urban Refuge. The Refuge is located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, just down the street from the Mall of America. Despite its urban setting, the Refuge is a haven to bald eagles, river otters, migratory birds, and a variety of other wildlife. The Refuge comprises over 15,000 acres which lie along a 70-mile stretch of the Minnesota River. Habitat includes a mixture of wetlands, floodplain and upland forest, oak savanna, and prairie. The Refuge also manages a 14-county Wetland Management District, which includes 29 Waterfowl Production Areas and wetland and grassland easements encompassing more than 9,000 acres.



**Intern Duties :** **Include, but are not limited to:** plant and invertebrate surveys in prairies and wetlands, invasive species removal and mapping, water level management, public education and outreach, pollinator and reptile surveys, habitat assessment and restoration, boundary posting and parking lot installation.



**Benefits:** Housing may be provided in a dorm located in Carver, Minnesota. A personal vehicle is recommended (but not required) for non-duty activities. The internship will run 12 weeks from late May-August, with the intern being provided an educational award of at least \$100 per week. Work schedule will be 40 hours/week and may include occasional evenings/weekends. Staff will work with students to fulfill internship credit requirements at colleges and universities if requested.

**Qualifications:** Interested applicants should be physically fit, able to work independently or in small groups, have excellent verbal/writing skills, and have a background in plant and animal identification, biology, botany, forestry, ecology, or a related field. Basic computer skills and a valid driver’s license are required. Experience in operating canoes, ATV’s, farm equipment, mowers, GPS, and GIS should be noted on resume.

**To Apply:** The following must be received by **February 29, 2017:** 1) a one-page cover letter describing your experience and interests; 2) a detailed resume noting education, experience, and skills; 3) unofficial college transcripts; 4) a letter of recommendation including the name, affiliation, address, telephone, and email address of each person writing a letter.

Information should be sent to: **Refuge Friends Inc. Conservation Internships, Minnesota Valley NWR, 3815 American Blvd East, Bloomington, MN 55425. Please send all applications materials by mail.**