



Wildlife Biology Program Internships

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia

Interns are an essential part of operations at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. 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 the visitors' enjoyment and understanding of wildlife refuges while actively monitoring and protecting the wildlife that calls this refuge home.



Credit USFWS

Requirements for all Biology Program Interns:

- A recent college graduate or current student with a *minimum of junior status* in Wildlife Biology, Environmental Science, Natural Resources Management, or a related field.
- Must have good oral communication and writing skills; must be able to work independently and with others; must have good observational skills, and must have a valid driver's license.
- Schedule flexibility (8 to 12 hours daily) including weekends and evening shifts.

Desired Background for Shorebird Monitoring and Management Interns:

- Experience working with breeding shorebirds, and/or colonial waterbirds. Ability to locate and monitor cryptic shorebirds by sight, call and tracks, and precocial chicks at 100-300 meters. Strong interest in ornithology and experience using optical equipment.
- Ability to walk in difficult terrain for long distances (5 miles per day), carry equipment (30 lbs.), tolerate biting insects and extreme temperatures.
- Must be comfortable working on a boat, and working for several hours at a time in remote locations.

Shorebird Monitoring & Management Internships (3)

- ASSAWOMAN ISLAND: One intern selected for 18 weeks (April 15 – August 18, 2017)
- ASSATEAGUE ISLAND: Two interns selected for 13 weeks (May 20 – August 18, 2017)

Primary Responsibilities (80% of duties):

- Monitor and manage breeding populations of federally threatened piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*); state threatened Wilson's plovers (*Charadrius wilsonia*), American oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*), and colonial nesting waterbirds. Resight data collection of the federally threatened Rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*).
- Interns will ensure data collection is complete, organized, and entered into appropriate databases.
- Daily vehicle maintenance, including trucks, boats, and ATVs.

Additional Responsibilities (20% of duties):

- Respond to marine mammal and sea turtle stranding; assist with sea turtle nest monitoring and management; assist with Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring surveys, and participate in environmental education and interpretation events.

ASSAWOMAN ONLY:

- The intern will work closely with a Refuge staff member and travel daily by Refuge vehicle to access Assawoman Island. NASA Security Clearance completion is required upon hiring.
- Intern will live on Assateague Island in bunkhouse quarters.
- This intern may assist in the Chincoteague Bay American oystercatcher breeding route survey by boat; therefore, **MUST BE COMFORTABLE WORKING ON A BOAT.**
- Intern also will participate in Refuge programs as outlined above in working on Assateague Island.

Habitat Monitoring & Management Internship (1)

- ASSATEAGUE ISLAND: One intern selected for 13 weeks (May 29 – August 27, 2017)

Primary Responsibilities (80% of duties):

The intern will work in a variety of habitats (maritime forest, freshwater wetland, salt marsh, beach strand) located on the Refuge's barrier island and mainland properties. The intern will provide technical field support and data management for southern pine beetle damage assessments; monitoring and management of invasive plant species such as common reed and autumn olive; inventory and monitoring of the federally threatened seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus* Rafinesque), assist with Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM) surveys;

among other activities. **Duties will include** mapping plant species using Garmin GPS and/or Trimble units, maps, compasses, and Geographical Information System (GIS) to document and report findings.



Credit: Patrick J. Hendrickson / Highcamera.com

Additional Responsibilities (20% of duties):

May assist with Delmarva fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger cinereus*) monitoring and management; assist with sea turtle nest monitoring and management, and participate in environmental interpretation events.

Benefits:

- Experience of a lifetime!
- Bunkhouse style co-ed lodging located on Assateague Island. Modern, furnished housing located close to Refuge headquarters and the beach.
- Living allowance of \$308 bi-weekly. Paid by Chincoteague Natural History Association (CNHA)

How to Apply

An application packet (pdf format) is required and must include the following three items:

1. Cover letter
2. Resume with three references
3. Copy of current college transcript (official copy not necessary)

Email packet to Emarie_Ayala@fws.gov

Application deadline is February 9, 2018. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For additional information, visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague



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