



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Friends Inc. *2018 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 monitoring and management, public education and outreach, pollinator and reptile surveys, habitat assessment and restoration, boundary posting and parking lot installation.

At least one of the internships will focus on hydrology of wetlands. Please note in your cover letter and resume any knowledge of the theory and practice of hydrologic processes, wetland management, ArcGIS hydrologic tools, LiDAR and development of water budgets.

Benefits: Housing **may** be available in a dorm located in Carver, Minnesota. The internship will run 12 weeks from late May-August, with the intern receiving 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 and 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 26, 2018:** 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 the person writing the letter.

Information should be sent to by mail only to:
Refuge Friends Inc. Conservation Internships
Minnesota Valley NWR
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425

For more information:
Email Minnesotavalley@fws.gov