

US Fish and Wildlife Service Internship Opportunity



Location: **Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge, Chatham, MA**
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Monomoy/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MonomoyNWR>

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1944 to provide habitat for migratory birds and was designated a Wilderness Area in 1970, the only coastal wilderness in New England. Sand stretches for eight miles off the elbow of Cape Cod, forming the barrier islands of North and South Monomoy. The refuge provides important resting, nesting and feeding habitat for migratory birds, including 45 pairs of the Federally protected piping plover. More than ten species of seabirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds nest on the islands. The refuge also supports one of the largest nesting colonies of common and roseate terns on the Atlantic seaboard with over 9,000 nesting pairs.



Position Title: **Piping Plover Intern (1 vacancy)**

Duties: Duties include but are not limited to: daily productivity monitoring of approximately 45 pairs of piping plovers from egg laying to chick fledging: monitoring nesting activities in several least tern colonies: posting nesting areas: erecting predator exclosures and electric fencing: lethal and non-lethal predator management (avian and mammalian): data entry: and general maintenance. The selected intern may have the opportunity to be involved in other Refuge activities including: assistance with piping plover trapping and banding: monitoring productivity of common and roseate terns, and American oystercatchers: banding tern chicks: trapping and resighting adult terns: and tagging spawning horseshoe crabs. Responsibilities may vary due to the strengths of individuals.

Intern is required to live in a remote field camp with no electricity or running water for up to one full week at a time.

Qualifications: Applicants must have the ability to perform the physical duties of the position including being able to hike long distances (extensive beach walking, average of 40 miles per work week) and being able to lift and carry at least 50 pounds. Applicants must be able to work with minimal supervision, be very independent and easy-going, and be able to work with the public of all ages in a professional manner regarding sensitive conservation issues. Previous experience with piping plovers, field work in a field camp setting, data collection, bird identification, and an academic background in wildlife biology, zoology, environmental science or a related field are preferred. **Applicants must have a valid driver's license, a social security number, and a bank account located in the United States.**

Salary: Stipend will be \$285 per week for 14 weeks through the Student Conservation Association (SCA). The position includes free housing. **For approximately 12 weeks, interns will spend time alternating between two remote field camps on South Monomoy during the work week and will have free dormitory style housing at the Refuge headquarters in Chatham, MA on their days off.**

Employment Details: Internship is 14 weeks. Intern must be able to start between 11 April and 25 April (absolute latest start date). The position involves working long hours, nights, weekends, and holidays. Schedules may exceed 40 hours per week and will vary frequently in the length of day and start time. Days off may not be consecutive. Staff will live in one of two field camps on the island with other refuge staff for at least 5 days at a time. **There is no heat, electricity, or running water in field camp. A background check will be required to gain necessary computer access at the Refuge.**

How to Apply: Send a letter of interest, resume, and contact information for at least 3 references (must include email and phone number for each reference listed) by email to: kate_laquinto@fws.gov. **DO NOT send applications by mail.**

Closing Date: January 15, 2016, however hiring WILL BEGIN well before the closing date, so applying earlier is strongly recommended.

Contact Person: Kate laquinto, Wildlife Biologist
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