Conservation Biology Summer Internships

Position Description

Background
The Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. (MVT) seeks to provide mentored summer internships to college students and recent college graduates with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Our goal is to encourage and enable youth to consider and pursue careers in conservation.

Given its location, size and varied habitats, the Refuge is able to serve as a learning laboratory and training site for future conservationists, natural resource biologists and environmental educators. The individuals selected will work alongside and under the supervision of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists. Interns will learn what it is like to manage, restore and protect this unique urban Refuge.

The Refuge spans 70 miles of the Minnesota River and covers 15,000 acres from urban to suburban and rural areas. It is a haven to bald eagles, river otters, migratory birds, and a variety of other wildlife. Habitat includes wetlands, floodplain, upland forest, oak savanna and prairie.

Internship Experiences
The variety of job duties will include plant, pollinator, reptile and bird surveys in prairies and wetlands, invasive species removal and mapping, water level monitoring and management, public education and outreach, habitat assessment and restoration, boundary posting and parking lot installation, entering field data and preparing data summaries and reports.

Work Environment and Qualifications
The work involves bending, walking, and a moderate amount of physical exertion, including lifting up to 45 pounds. Work will be both indoors and outdoors. Interns will encounter variable weather conditions and work on uneven terrain, in the presence of biting insects.

Applicants should be physically fit, able to work independently and in small groups, and possess verbal and writing skills, computer skills, experience or interest in Midwest plant and animal identification, and knowledge of biology, botany, forestry, ecology or a related field. Please note on application any experience operating canoes, ATVs, farm equipment or mowers, as well as any knowledge of GPS and GIS.

Work Location, Hours and Benefits
Internship will run 12-14 weeks, based out of the Refuge’s Bloomington Education and Visitor Center at 3815 American Blvd E., Bloomington, MN 55425. The Metro Transit light rail American Boulevard station is a five-minute walk from the Visitor Center. A government vehicle will be available for fieldwork, which can be up to 75 miles away. Work hours will generally be five 8-hour days totaling 40 hours per week. Schedule will be Monday-Friday (7:30 am-4 pm); occasional evening or weekend shifts are possible. Pay is $13/hour. Workers compensation insurance will be provided (no other benefits). USFWS staff will work with students to fulfill internship requirements.

Application Instructions
To apply, send a cover letter that describes why you are interested in this internship, resume, unofficial transcripts and three references to: Intern Applications, Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc., 3815 American Blvd East, Bloomington, MN 55425, or jobs@mnvalleytrust.org. Applications are accepted by email or mail, and will be accepted until March 13, 2020 or until the position(s) are filled.