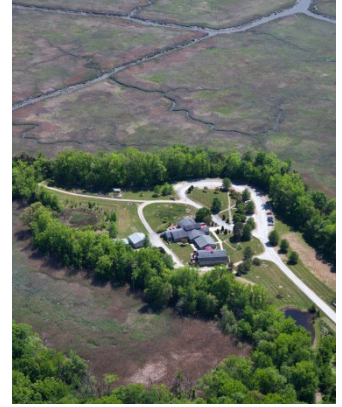


Research Intern

Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve – St. Jones Reserve

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DELAWARE STATE PARK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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MISSION

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) is one of 29 National Research Reserves across the country whose goal is to establish, protect, and manage natural estuarine habitats for research, education, and coastal stewardship. It was established in 1993 and is a cooperative program between the State of Delaware and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Our mission at the DNERR is promoting effective stewardship of estuarine and coastal ecosystems through education, outreach, partnerships and research.

DESCRIPTION

Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) is currently seeking applications for a Research Intern. The intern will assist our Stewardship Coordinator with research and monitoring projects focusing on tidal marsh ecosystems. The intern will also assist in leading DNERR citizen science projects and gain hands-on research experience, including data collection and interpretation, and learn about on-going research efforts in upland and estuarine ecosystems such as nest box and wetland vegetation monitoring.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the internship, the intern will:

- Be able to identify at least 10 common wetland plant species and focal marsh birds by sight and vocalizations
- Be able to identify at least 5 nesting bird species and understand their nesting cycles
- Understand and demonstrate various research methodologies used for coastal monitoring projects
- Gain leadership skills by organizing citizen science projects
- Be able to manage and interpret scientific data

LOCATION

- In-person/hybrid at the St. Jones Reserve, Dover, DE

TERM OF SERVICE

- Summer – 12 weeks
- Full-time - 37.5 hours per week

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Enter and analyze scientific data within online and desktop databases
- Assist with on-going DNERR research: nest box monitoring, marsh vegetation monitoring, aquatic invasive species monitoring, marsh bird surveys, and other projects as needed
- Participate in DNERR-related education and stewardship events as appropriate
- Develop a summer research project focusing on a DNERR management need with the guidance from the Stewardship Coordinator
- Present the completed project to staff, and potentially professionals within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System
- Other duties as assigned, based on organizational needs

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Bachelor's or master's degree (or degree in progress) in environmental science, wetland ecology, wildlife biology or a related field
- Ability to spend long days in the field, sometimes in inclement weather, and during early mornings and late evenings (possibly weekends)
- Ability to work on small boats and with soft estuarine sediments (mud)
- Strong writing and research skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Detail-oriented, focused, and punctual
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite
- Possession of a valid driver's license and own transportation

DIRECT SUPERVISOR

- The direct supervisor will be the Stewardship Coordinator

BENEFITS

- **Training:** A hallmark of the program, interns receive training from the field experts they will be working with. In addition to this formal and informal training to successfully conduct their internship assignment, interns will have the opportunity to build associated skills and share real-time experience with park staff and colleagues. Training will be made available to the interns to further their personal and professional development.
- **Housing:** Limited co-ed housing is available, at no fee, for interns providing full-time hours (30 or more per week). If selected for housing, an intern will share a house, duplex or dorm facility with other interns.
- **Activities:** Interns will have the opportunity not only to visit ALL Delaware State Parks at no fee, but also participate in many of the tours, programs, and associated events for free. Delaware State Parks span the length of the state and whether it be canoeing at Trap Pond State Park, surfing at Delaware Seashore State Park, attending a concert at Bellevue State Park, or touring the living history facility at Fort Delaware, there is certainly something for everyone.
- **Stipend Available:** Interns are not employees of the State of Delaware- they are considered volunteers and are not paid for their service. Interns may elect to receive a stipend to help cover expenses incurred during their volunteer intern service. The stipend is a fixed amount of \$100 per week for service of 30 or more hours per week or \$50.00 per week for service of between 20 – 29 hours/ week paid biweekly as a direct deposit into the Intern's bank account.

- The stipend is not a wage, but does count toward the total income on which the intern's tax obligation is based. Interns electing to receive the stipend will complete IRS Form W-9 Request for Tax-Payer Identification as self-employed and will receive a Form 1099 at the end of the year that reports the amount of income from the stipend. No taxes are withheld from the stipend.

All Delaware State Parks Interns are required to undergo and successfully complete a background check performed by the Division.

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The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce