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To Enrich Lives and Inspire an Ethic of Care of Wisconsin's Northwoods, through the Facilitation of Connections among Nature, People and Community

Water Monitoring Internship

Position Description

(3 positions available)

Overview: During summers at the Discovery Center, located in the heart of Wisconsin's Northwoods within 1300-lake Vilas County, the Water Monitoring Interns are key members in our water-related monitoring and outreach efforts. Interns assist in projects including aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring and removal, water quality assessments, and lake level monitoring.

Hours: At least 40 hours/ week with usual Tuesday-Saturday work week that includes a good deal of flexibility and will include some required evenings and holidays.

Length of Service: up to 14 weeks, approximately May 18– August 21, 2020

Compensation: \$850 monthly stipend plus free shared onsite housing

Requirements:

- **General:** Excellent oral and written communication skills. Strong organizational skills. A cheerful, positive attitude. Reliability and the ability to self-motivate and work independently, as well as with a team. Ability to collect, enter, and compile accurate data in written and electronic formats. Willingness to work outside in a variety of weather conditions. *CPR and First Aid certification, and WI Boater Safety Certification (if born after January 1, 1989) are a mandatory requirement for this position, and proof of current certification is required on file prior to start date. Must be comfortable in and around water, and comfortable working on boats. Valid driver's license required.*
- **Education and experience:** Majoring in limnology, fisheries, conservation biology, environmental education, natural resources, or a closely related field. Basic knowledge of limnological principles including aquatic invasive species, chemistry, biology, conservation, and sampling methods. Boat experience preferred (please indicate relevant experience and WI Boater Safety Certificate on application, if applicable).

Expectations and Opportunities:

This position is responsible for following main areas:

1. ***AIS monitoring and delivering water-related programming to members, user groups, and the community.***
Assist with citizen science AIS monitoring and public education efforts through outreach, program delivery, and training. Conduct or assist with aquatic plant surveys, bio-control beetle rearing, water quality monitoring, snorkel surveys, and crayfish trapping. Identify and map areas of AIS infestations.
2. ***Sharing your passion and knowledge of Wisconsin's AIS and lake health challenges and successes.***
Conduct *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* boater surveys: Inform and educate boaters on how to inspect and clean boat hulls, live wells, trailers, props, and other equipment. Inform boaters about Wisconsin laws regarding invasive species. Input written survey data into Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) database.
3. ***Participate as part of the dedicated Water Program Team at the Discovery Center***
Work a flexible week including evenings, weekends, and holidays depending on schedule. Assist in programs, special events and fundraisers, and community outreach. Communicate needs to and be willing to help other staff members as needed. Assist with storytelling initiatives for the organization, through social media, photos, and presentations. If school internship credit through completion of a project is needed, we are happy to accommodate and work out details based on interest.

You will gain experience in: Citizen-based monitoring programs, community and volunteer engagement, aquatic surveying, data entry, teaching and program delivery, motorized and non-motorized boat operation, and volunteer supervision and coordination.

To apply:

Send a letter of interest, résumé, and three references by February 23, 2020 online to fill out the application form and upload documents: <https://discoverycenter.net/about-discovery-center/employment/>

Be sure to indicate relevant class, boating, and life experience in your application.

The North Lakeland Discovery Center is a premier not-for-profit environmental education center located in Wisconsin's scenic Northwoods. Our 63-acre site is situated among forestland, wetlands, and wilderness lakes and rivers within the 240,000-acre North Highlands State Forest. The Discovery Center's activities and experiences promote stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and connect people to nature through education, recreation and research. Our events, facilities, recreation opportunities and engaging outdoor programs encourage lifelong learning and create a sense of community, well-being and fun!