

ADIRONDACK INVASIVE SPECIES EDUCATION AND OUTREACH INTERN

2012 Summer Opportunity with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

The Education and Outreach Internship provides hands-on exposure to all aspects of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program's work throughout the Adirondack region. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) is a five-time award-winning invasive species program housed at the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley, New York. APIPP's mission is to protect the Adirondack region from the negative impacts of non-native invasive species. Program goals are to collaborate with partners, communities, and the public to prevent new introductions of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species to the region, detect and rapidly respond to new infestations, and mitigate harmful impacts of infestations already established. APIPP uses a landscape-level, comprehensive and integrated approach utilizing strategies in coordination, prevention, early detection surveys, rapid response, monitoring, mapping, management, education, research, restoration, policy, and funding.

Essential Functions

Primary Projects: Working with APIPP's Director, Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinators, and conservation partners, the intern will be involved in developing and participating in invasive species public education and outreach projects and events throughout the region.

a) Education and Outreach responsibilities may include the following

- Organize and publicize activities across the region during the annual Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week
- Assist with preparation and assembly of supporting materials for invasive species trainings and demonstrations
- Identify and attend community events in the region at which to have an invasive species display
- Assist with the development and implementation of education programs to key audiences for invasive plants, aquatic invasive species and forest pests
- Develop new educational materials and provide ideas for promoting invasive species awareness and the APIPP program in the Adirondacks
- Provide weekly updates to APIPP's blog at www.adk-invasives.blogspot.com
- Assist with updating content of the program's website; research and draft content and select images/video

b) Surveys, Mapping and Management

- Assist Project Coordinators with terrestrial (roadside, trails, Forest Preserve) and aquatic invasive species surveys (lakes and ponds), including mapping invasive species occurrences using a GPS
- Assist Project Coordinators with terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant management projects (site preparation, handcutting/pulling/bagging of plants)

General: The intern will work closely with APIPP staff and partners and will report directly to the APIPP Director. The intern will also assist the Project Coordinators as opportunities arise. In addition to the listed duties, there may be vehicle and equipment maintenance and other work as needed as summer work priorities evolve, and as the intern's interests dictate. Work will be in the field in all sorts of weather, sometimes in remote locations with rugged terrain. The intern is expected to work independently as well as with APIPP partners and the public.

Additional Training Opportunities

The intern will be exposed to a range of educational opportunities during the course of the summer field season. These will include training sessions in identification of various invasive species, assessing and ranking threat status of infestations based on transport vectors and geophysical settings, control methods, and GIS analyses. Opportunities may arise to assist with other Conservancy and partner activities. Working with a regional conservation program will broaden the selected candidate's knowledge of ecoregional and global conservation issues and strategies for addressing threats to biodiversity.

Additional Job Information

- Housing is not provided.
- Must be able to commute to our office in Keene Valley, NY on a daily basis during summer field season.
- Past interns have received college credit for this internship, and we are happy to accommodate applicants seeking academic credit from their home institution.

This position requires a valid driver's license and compliance with the Conservancy's Auto Safety Program. Employees may not drive Conservancy-owned/leased vehicles, rental cars, or personal vehicles on behalf of the Conservancy if considered "high risk drivers." Please see further details in the Auto Safety Program document available at www.nature.org/careers.

Employment in this position will be contingent upon completion of a Vehicle Use Agreement, which may include a review of the prospective employee's motor vehicle record.

Basic Qualifications

- At least a college freshman and 6 months training in a natural resources and/or communications related field or related experience in public outreach (can be a combination of past job experience, academic work, volunteer work, etc)
- Basic computer skills including Microsoft Word and Excel
- Experience in public speaking and interacting with various audiences

Desired Qualifications

- College junior, senior, or recent graduate with at least 1 year's training in a natural resources and/or communications related field or related experience in public outreach (can be a combination of past job experience, academic work, volunteer work, etc)
- Willingness to lead and organize educational invasive species programs to all groups and ages of people
- Strong communications background; excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong environmental studies background; demonstrated interest in conservation issues; experience with plant and animal taxonomy, invasive species identification and issues, basic terrestrial and aquatic ecology
- Experience using web design programs, Microsoft Publisher and PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop
- Experience operating various audio visual equipment
- Well-organized and flexible
- Motivated self-starter, able to work independently with minimal direction
- Enjoys working in an office environment and outdoors in various weather conditions

Dates and Compensation

- May -September, 2012, 18 weeks total; flexible depending on the availability of the successful candidate
- \$11.77/hour, plus mileage reimbursement if steward uses his/her own vehicle for work-related travel (no reimbursement for daily commute to office)
- 40-hour work week, generally Mondays through Fridays, but will include several weekends as community event dictate. Some days, particularly those in remote locations, will be longer than 8 hours.

Application Information

The following are required for your application to be considered:

- Applications must be made via nature.org/careers Job# 39634
- Please submit your cover letter and resume in one document. In your cover letter include an explanation of how this internship position fits with your career goals and communications/conservation interests and describe your interest in the Adirondacks.

All applications must be submitted in the system prior to 11:59PM Eastern Time on February 9th, 2012.

Failure to complete all of the required fields may result in your application being disqualified from consideration. The information entered in the education and work experience sections are auto screened by the system based on the basic qualifications of the position.

You must click submit to apply for the position. Click save if you want to be able to return to your application and submit it later. Once submitted, applications cannot be revised or edited.

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