



Vacancy Announcement: Water Quality Intern

Mason-Lake Conservation District is hiring a water quality intern to assist with monitoring activities of the Little Manistee River in Lake, Mason and Manistee Counties. Work to be accomplished through this internship is in partnership with the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council. The intern will work in a welcoming, fun, fast-paced office environment or on the river with citizen scientists. This internship is intended for a senior student or recent graduate. The position will average 20 hours per week, late May to mid-October. Normal work hours occur between 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday but may include occasional evening or weekend hours for major events. The Conservation District is a local unit of government that provides technical expertise on conservation projects to farms, landowners and public entities in Mason County and the west half of Lake County.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

- Coordinate macro-invertebrate sampling days on 6 stream sites in late May and early October in accordance with MiCorps protocol
- Sort and identify aquatic macro-invertebrates.
- Collect biological, chemical, and physical data from streams in accordance with the MiCorps Program sampling protocol.
- Recruit and coordinate volunteer citizen scientists to assist with macro-invertebrate sampling days.
- Maintain, calibrate, troubleshoot and properly use all water quality sampling equipment.
- Assist in data analysis, writing reports and uploading data to the statewide database.
- Organize and compile past data from field datasheets and Excel to submit for reporting.
- Attend meetings and trainings to update or acquire new skills.
- Implement stream habitat assessments on 3 sites using MiCorps Program protocol
- Other duties as assigned to assist with stream monitoring or other Conservation District projects. Activities may include, but are not limited to, tree planting, native shoreline restoration, and beachgrass harvest

WORKING LOCATION AND CONDITIONS

The position will be based in Scottville, Mason County, Michigan. This location is near Ludington on the west side of the state, where there are diverse rivers to paddle, trails to hike and parks to explore. Work time is split between office work while planning sampling events and field work on rivers. Many sampling locations will be based in other counties, but a shared work vehicle will be available for field work. Intern must be available to complete all sampling in October and submit final reports for fall sampling to statewide database.

REQUIRED EDUCATION

Must possess at least 60 credits towards a Bachelor of Science Degree in limnology, environmental sciences, conservation biology, biology, fisheries or related science field. Intern may be eligible to receive credit from their university.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Experience conducting macro-invertebrate stream sampling preferred.
- Willing and able to collaborate with different groups that are working on various river projects
- Solid verbal and written communication skills.
- Proficiency required in Microsoft Excel and Word.
- Must be detail oriented and able to work in an outdoor setting and office environment.
- Must be familiar able to swim, hike/walk through rough terrain
- Must be willing to work in all weather and elements, including places where poisonous plants or stinging insects may be present.
- Coursework in invertebrates is a plus
- Must possess a valid driver's license with a good driving record, reliable transportation to work for the duration of the internship
- The intern is occasionally required to stand, walk, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl and may occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds

COMPENSATION

A monthly stipend of \$500 (totaling \$2,500 for the duration of the internship) will be provided, in addition to a \$2,500 scholarship, to be awarded at completion of the internship.

TO APPLY

Provide a cover letter, resume, transcripts (unofficial are acceptable), and list of three references, and email to Dani McGarry at the Mason-Lake Conservation District at dani.mcgarry@macd.org . Please list "water quality internship" in the email subject line. Any questions pertaining to the position may also be directed to Dani McGarry via email or by calling (231) 757-3707 ext. 102.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Preferred start date is June 14th or earlier.