



PAID INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Internship Title: Water Quality Research & Outreach Intern

Organization and Overall Program Description: The Audubon Naturalist Society is the oldest independent environmental organization in the Washington, DC region. A pioneer in linking conservation activities with environmental education, ANS seeks to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it. We inspire residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

ANS' Conservation Program:

- Analyzes and advocates for better environmental policies and land-use decisions in DC and its surrounding MD & VA jurisdictions, with a focus on human health & access to nature; biodiversity & habitats; climate crisis; and sustainable land use.
- Works with community groups and grassroots organizations to provide advocacy and stewardship training to families, youth, and adults
- Hosts outreach events teaching about stream health through the lens of our innovative "Creek Critters" smartphone app
- Runs a community-science water monitoring program that for 25 years has been studying the health of streams around the region
- Helps plan for stewardship and conservation of our flagship, 40-acre Woodend sanctuary

Intern Position Description: ANS' Conservation Program seeks an intern to help with conducting research, analysis, and outreach for our water quality monitoring program. This position is particularly well suited for a graduate student in environmental science, biology, or a related field.

Hours per week: Part-time, average 20-25 hrs/week, self-scheduled except as noted. *Includes occasional weekend or evening outreach events; MUST be available on Wednesday mornings May-Sep., approximately 8:30 am – 1 pm.*

Duration of internship: April/May 2021 – Fall/Winter 2021 (24-28 weeks), plus attending one virtual and one in-person training in April (paid). End date is flexible and may align with the end of a fall semester, although hours will likely be reduced after September.

Intern Supervisor: Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

Salary and Benefits: This internship is paid at \$15-16.50/hr, depending on qualifications & experience. Benefits include:

- Free ANS membership for one year
- 20% discount for ANS adult programs.
- If space is available, free participation in ANS adult programs.
- 20% discount at Sanctuary Shop.
- Opportunity to participate in staff and committee meetings
- Opportunity to interview the ANS Executive Director and other staff

Woodend Sanctuary | 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 | 301-652-9188

Rust Sanctuary | 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia 20175 | 703-669-0000

Responsibilities: The Water Quality Research & Outreach Intern will work with the Conservation Director, Conservation Outreach Manager, and DC Conservation Advocate on two specific projects:

- (1) To help facilitate a volunteer water monitoring program for bacteria testing in Washington, DC waterways, May - September. Responsibilities include:
 - Attend trainings and review activity plans to learn bacteria testing protocols and Quality Assurance Plan.
 - Contact volunteer monitors, assign them to teams, send them weekly coordinating emails, and answer their questions regarding logistics and locations.
 - Weekly on Wednesday mornings, meet volunteers in the field as needed and then wait at a central, outdoor location in Washington, DC for volunteers to drop off coolers of water samples. Drive or metro the coolers to the laboratory location in Southwest DC.
 - Rebalance supplies (you'll keep supplies in your own possession) following each week's monitoring.
 - Assist with outreach to recruit more and diverse volunteers, and to educate the public about the project, by representing ANS and project partners at community meetings, festivals, Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings, and other events with recruitment information.
 - Take photos while in the field and write occasional blog, social media, or print publication material about the progress of monitoring, recent results, etc.

- (2) To assist in the development of a new report on the state of the Washington, DC region's streams and watersheds. Responsibilities include:
 - Conduct a survey and literature review of stream "report cards" in our region and beyond, building on material already collected by Audubon Naturalist Society and our partners.
 - Work alongside and present to partner organizations (i.e. watershed groups) to help facilitate initial meetings and workshops to develop methods and indicators for our regional stream health report, covering 2-3 pilot watersheds in Year 1.
 - Research and propose indicators of stream health using existing public, nonprofit, open source governmental, and academic datasets, including volunteer citizen/community science datasets collected by ANS and the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative. Indicators and datasets could include biological, physical, chemical, geographic (i.e. land use/land cover), etc.
 - Draft visual communications tools (i.e. maps, graphs, and charts) to succinctly communicate indicators and results in a clear, public-facing fashion.
 - Working with staff, prepare methods and results sections of a pilot report on Year 1.

Qualifications:

- Required qualifications include:
 - knowledge of any of the following: stream ecology and/or hydrology, watershed health, bacteria testing, stream monitoring, field scientific protocols, green infrastructure, stormwater management.
 - Experience in relevant meta-analytical research skills and tools, including GIS, governmental datasets, statistical analysis, etc.
 - Experience in collaborative, stakeholder-driven projects in any field
 - fast learner and excited to learn skills quickly
 - an interest in and commitment to environmental protection and/or science
 - detail-oriented to track spreadsheets of volunteers, email communications, equipment inventory, and scientific protocols carefully
 - good people skills and comfort interacting with volunteers and colleagues from other organizations while representing ANS

- Desired qualifications include, in any combination:
 - social media marketing and/or blogging
 - photo or video editing skills
 - strong written and oral communication skills
 - knowledge of communities in DC, Montgomery, Prince George's, and/or Fairfax counties
 - Fluency in Spanish is a plus

Location and Transportation

Remote; locations around Washington, DC. Occasional visits for outdoor meetings to Woodend Nature Sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Access to a car recommended; extensive travel around Washington, DC is an important component of the job. If you don't have a car, you can do the job with a commitment to bicycling, walking, public transit, and occasional carsharing. Mileage and/or public transportation will be reimbursed to and from work-related activities.

Send resume and cover letter to eliza.cava@anshome.org.