Internships

Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs

Interns are important partners with Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs staff. Internships provide opportunities for students to gain first hand practical experience in a major government parks and recreation system where they are involved in observing, planning and implementing operations and programs. Students learn to apply classroom concepts and theories in an actual on-site experience. In addition, our staff gain access to current university research, new ideas and innovative techniques. Interns give us valuable staff hours to support programming and projects.

Types of Internships Available
Responsibilities vary with the season, property, internship type and level of performance of the student throughout the program, but usually include:

Property Management
- Introduce the basic philosophies that guide our management
- Become familiar with the roles of regulatory agencies in management.
- Maintain and do minor repair work in mechanical facilities.
- Learn techniques for supervision, evaluation and fiscal planning.
- Meet property users and local community.
- Practice clear and concise written and oral communication.

Interpretation
- Begin developing a personal philosophy of interpretation.
- Observe and learn interpretive and administrative techniques.
- Observe, design and present programs for varied audiences.
- Become aware of available interpretive resource materials and media.
- Pursue research projects related to environmental education or ecology.

Natural Resource Planning and Management
- Assist with inventories of plants and wildlife.
- Develop plans for potentially sensitive areas or habitat improvements.
- Assist with site change recommendations.
- Assist with updating master plans.
- Assist with prescribed burns and invasive/exotic species removal.

Facility Management and Maintenance
- Perform asset inventories and condition assessments including measurements, distances, and construction types/materials.
- Use GIS and GPS systems available through universities.

Other areas
Options may be available for internships in historical research, business administration, marketing, or computer and information technology (manning helpdesk and computer setup). These internships can be designed by the property staff, the student and the university.

Locations
In most cases the student spends his/her time at one property location. It may be possible to arrange for multiple property experiences where deemed appropriate. Some internships may be in the division office in Indianapolis.

“My experience at Mounds State Park allowed me to learn so much about trees, birds and working with the public.”
Alanna McCollum, Franklin College Intern, Summer 2002

Internship Opportunities
Division of State Parks and Reservoirs
402 W. Washington Room W298
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-4124
gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov
Seasons
Most internships take place in the summer, but positions are also available in other seasons, depending on the property and the type of internship.

Work Hours
The number of hours required varies according to the school's requirements. In general, the student is expected to maintain the same schedule as full-time staff. Some evening and weekend work may be required. Hours will be kept as flexible as possible to provide the student with the best experience.

Housing, Travel, Stipends, Uniforms and Credit Hours
- Housing is the responsibility of the student. The property at which the student works may have information available on locations where housing may be obtained in the local community.
- Travel to and from the site is the responsibility of the student.
- Stipends are not available from the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs. However, if seasonal property positions are available and a student is hired in one of these positions, he/she is paid at the prevailing State rate for the position, in addition to receiving credit from the college or university.
- Interns do not drive state vehicles unless also working as paid staff.
- If serving in an internship that involves public contact, the student wears the Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs uniform. Uniforms are purchased by the student, or obtained from the supply of returned uniforms of former employees stored on site. Borrowed uniforms must be returned at the end of the internship.
- Students enrolled in a program where credit hours are available from their school must provide the property supervisor with paperwork.

Conduct
In all cases, the student will be expected to follow the rules and regulations for conduct of the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs and of their college or university.

Evaluation
Interns/Field Work students will be evaluated by the following criteria:
- College and university requirements.
- Evaluation of submitted reports and quality of projects.
- Contribution and participation during program.
- Professional attitude and overall development.
- Submission of a final assessment/report of the internship experience.

Application Procedure
- Meet with your school coordinator to establish requirements.
- Contact the manager or interpreter at the property where you want to intern. If positions are available, they will set up an interview. If you are not familiar with the State Parks and Reservoirs' properties, contact us at the address on the cover of this brochure.
- Prior to your interview, submit the following to the property:
  a. A statement of your professional career goals.
  b. A statement of why you wish to participate in the intern program and what you expect from it. List what talents skills and special knowledge you would bring to the program.
  c. A personal resume.
  d. A copy of your college grade transcripts.

State Park and Reservoir Properties

1. Brookville Reservoir 765/647-2657
2. Brown County SP 812/988-6406
   Brown Co. Interpreter 812/988-5240
3. Chain O’Lakes SP 260/636-2654
4. Charlestown SP 812/256-5600
5. Clifty Falls SP 812/273-8885
   Clifty Falls Interpreter 812/273-0609
6. Falls of the Ohio SP* 812/280-9970
7. Fort Harrison SP* 317/591-0904
8. Hargy Lake 812/794-3800
9. Harmonie SP 812/682-4821
11. Indiana Dunes SP 219/926-1952
   Indiana Dunes Interpreter 219/926-1390
12. Cagles Mill Lake 765/795-4576
13. Lincoln SP* 812/937-4710
14. McCormick’s Creek SP 812/829-2235
   McCormick’s Interpreter 812/829-4344
15. Mississinewa Reservoir 765/473-6528
16. Monroe Reservoir 812/837-9546
17. Mounds SP 765/642-6627
   Mounds Interpreter 765/649-8128
18. Ouabache SP 260/824-0926
19. Patoka Reservoir 812/685-2464
   Patoka Interpreter 812/685-2447
21. Potato Creek SP* 574/656-8186
22. Prophetstown SP 765/344-1412
23. Cecil M. Hardin Lake 765/597-2654
   Upper Wabash Interpretive 260/468-2127
25. Shades SP 765/597-2635
26. Shakamak SP 765/665-2158
27. Spring Mill SP* 812/849-4129
28. Summit Lake SP 765/766-5873
29. Turkey Run Interpretive 765/597-2657
30. Turkey Run SP 765/597-2654
31. Versailles SP 812/689-6424
32. Wabash SP 765/647-2657

* These sites have full time interpreters who can be reached through the main property telephone number.