



Environmental Education Internship

in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Are you passionate about increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors? Do you want to introduce children and adults to the wonders of nature? Do you desire to gain skills in environmental education, explore a career in conservation AND be compensated for your work?

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (Trust) and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) have partnered together to "*Mentor the Next Generation of Conservation Professionals.*"

We are hiring three Environmental Education Interns for paid full-time, nine-month positions to join our Visitor Services and Outreach Team. Join us to play an integral role at this thriving urban refuge where nature connects people, communities and wildlife!

Environmental Education Interns will be employees of the Trust, a nonprofit partner of the refuge. Educators will work alongside and learn from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) professionals to:

- Deliver in-person environmental education and interpretation to K-8th grade students and the public
- Facilitate activities for young audiences, including birding, fishing, snowshoeing and wildlife tracking
- Assist with planning, developing and leading nature-based activities on the refuge and in the community
- Support refuge visitor center operations and engage with visitors
- Contribute social media content and newsletter articles to refuge communication channels
- Expand your own outdoor recreation skills
- Maintain education and recreation equipment
- Coordinate with community partners and teachers
- Support and train volunteers

As an Educator with the refuge and Trust, you will have opportunities to:

- Explore career paths within the field of natural resource management, education and community outreach
- Build relationships with USFWS professionals and network with local conservation partners
- Identify areas for professional growth and develop and complete a training plan that addresses needs
- Gain an understanding of how to compete for opportunities through USAJobs

Location: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Twin Cities of Minnesota:

- Bloomington Education and Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, MN 55425
- Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center, 15865 Rapids Lake Road, Carver, MN 55315

Qualifications:

- Post-secondary education desirable (degree obtained or in progress)
- Knowledge of and/or strong interest in one or more of the following: environmental education, youth development, natural resource management, wildlife management, biology, community outreach or communications
- Ability to organize information into concise, clean and compelling text, writing for publications, social media and website
- Excellent customer service skills and the ability to communicate well verbally and in writing
- Experience working with the public or children is desirable
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, detail-oriented and organized, ability to follow oral and written direction
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including one weekend day per week and occasional evenings
- Second language skills desirable
- Valid driver's license preferred
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- Background check

40% of the work will be in the office, while 60% of the work will be in the field and will involve some physical activity, including walking or standing for long periods of time

Term, Compensation and Benefits

Start Date: August 28, 2023 **End Date:** June 7, 2024

Wage: \$17.57 per hour

Benefits: Paid time off, federal holidays, employer-provided life and disability insurance, employer contribution to health and dental insurance, employer match to retirement plan. Uniform shirts and required field gear provided.

Note: Public Land Corps Hiring Authority may apply: Educators may be eligible for a federal hiring preference upon completion of their term of service.

Training: Educators will receive on-the-job training and develop a plan with their supervisor to build career skills. They will attend the 2024 Regional USFWS Internship Workshop to learn about federal careers and the federal application process.

Educators will network with other Trust employees and USFWS staff, interns and volunteers, as well as local area partners such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Corps - MN/IA, city and county conservation agencies, and non-government and non-profit conservation groups.

Application Deadline: Your application must be received by 5:00 pm, July 18, 2023.

To Apply: Submit the following information in ONE document to jobs@mnvalleytrust.org:

- 1) 1-page cover letter explaining interest in the position, 2) Resume noting education, experience and skills, and 3) List of three references (professional and/or academic). *Please include all in a single document.*

Questions: Please direct questions by email to alaina_larkin@fws.gov.

The Minnesota Valley Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran or disability status. Persons who are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion are encouraged to apply, as are members of groups that are historically under-represented in conservation careers.