



WOLF RIDGESM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Job Description

Job Title: Summer Wildlife Intern

Department: Program

Reports To: Wildlife Program Coordinator

FLSA Status: Exempt

Prepared By: Wildlife Program Coordinator

Updated Date: December 4, 2024

Approved: Rebecca Meyer

Approved Date: 12/04/2024

Summary

The Summer Wildlife Intern is a crucial member of our wildlife team at Wolf Ridge, participating in all aspects of wildlife care, education, and research, both on- and off-campus. This hands-on educational experience is designed to provide the intern with a diverse skillset to help them prepare for a future career in wildlife husbandry, research, education, or conservation.

General Duties of the Summer Wildlife Intern

- Care and management of Wolf Ridge's 17 ambassador animals, including 1 red-tailed hawk, 1 great horned owl, 1 red fox, 1 European starling, 1 red-eared slider, 2 mice and 10 native fish
 - Diet preparation and daily feeding
 - Cleaning and maintenance of animal housing
 - Building and repair of enclosure perching and structures
 - Enrichment design and implementation
 - Training with use of positive reinforcement techniques
- Provide wildlife educational opportunities for Wolf Ridge visitors and groups of all sizes
 - Weekly Raptor presentations for groups of 50-150 camp participants
 - Informal and impromptu "keeper chats" by animal enclosures
 - 3 hour wildlife-focused classes with groups of up to 20 campers and adults; class offerings include Birds, Small Mammals, Frogs and Toads, Invertebrates, Animal Signs, Northwoods Mammals
 - Design and carry out programming for Adventuring for Animals Camp (6th and 7th graders)
 - Weekly Naturalist on the Shore "Meet A Raptor" program at Bluefin Bay Resort
- Assist Wolf Ridge rock climbing team during Midwest Peregrine Society peregrine falcon chick banding

- Participate in Wolf Ridge passerine and near-passerine banding research
 - Attend *Institute for Bird Populations* Beginning Banding course held at Wolf Ridge, and assist with Advanced course and Youth Ornithology Field camp
 - Work with Wolf Ridge bird banding team on MAPS Project (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding project throughout summer
 - Learn how to operate mist-nets, safe extraction and handling of birds, aging and sexing techniques, recording data using MAPS protocol
- Participate in staff training and orientation
- Be flexible to accommodate the needs of different programs

Critical Skills and Experiences

- Required:
 - First Aid, CPR prior to employment start date
 - Current driver's license
- Able to commit to 40 hours/week, including early mornings, evenings, weekends, and holidays
- Willing to serve as role model for students and peers: display maturity, responsibility, patience, adaptability, enthusiasm, and a commitment to animal welfare and environmental education
- In good physical condition and able to lift and carry 50 pounds.
- Ability to work well individually and on a team
- Ability to accept feedback gracefully and integrate it
- Strong communication skills and ability to navigate conflict
- Understand and adhere to all Wolf Ridge policies

Internship Dates

Arrival Date: May 24, 2025

Departure Date: August 16, 2025

Compensation

- Attendance at *Institute for Bird Populations* Beginning Bird Banding course, June 19-26 (\$2950 value)
- Average of two days off provided each week (variable schedule)
- Lodging provided throughout duration of internship
- Meals are available in the dining hall when groups are on campus
- Credit for this internship can be arranged through the intern's current college or university
- No additional wages or benefits provided