



## Aquatic Plant Internship Announcement – 2020

**Position Description:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resource will be filling 3 student intern positions, one will be in Brainerd, one in Bemidji, and one in Sauk Rapids. Salary is \$15.00/hr. The internship will start the end of May and go through August.

The hours for the Sauk Rapids position will be M-F 8-4:30 and the hours for the Bemidji/Brainerd positions will be M-F 8 hour days for the first week or two and then will switch to M-TH 10 hour days for the remainder of the summer.

This is a statewide program, so some overnight travel will be required. When traveling, lodging and transportation are provided and the cost of meals will be reimbursed. Interns are responsible for their own housing and living expenses on their off time (i.e. nights not in travel status and weekends).

**Primary responsibility** will be to assist Lake Ecology Unit Aquatic Biologists (Brainerd, Bemidji) and Minnesota Biological Survey Aquatic Botanist (Sauk Rapids) with lake plant and shoreline habitat surveys, associated field preparation and data summaries. The work will include towing a boat trailer, launching and operating motorboats/kayaks/canoes, navigating with GPS, collecting and identifying aquatic plant species, and recording habitat data.

Additional duties will include plant preservation, field equipment maintenance, and data entry and editing. The DNR aquatic biologists also train other personnel in aquatic plant sampling and identification methods.

### Minimum Qualifications:

To be eligible for an Internship, you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be a student at an accredited educational institution; **AND**
2. Your advisor must certify that you will either receive academic credit or fulfill an academic requirement. The signature of a sponsoring academic instructor is required prior to beginning an Internship.

#### **AND**

- Majoring in one of the following: Biology, Botany, Natural Resources, Fisheries & Wildlife, Ecology, Environmental Science, Forestry, or closely related field.
- Must possess moderate proficiency with word processing, spreadsheets and database programs sufficient to enter and edit data using department applications.
- Organizational skills and ability to accurately record, transcribe, and transfer data electronically.

- Ability to work cooperatively as part of a small team.
- Ability and willingness to work in remote locations and in a small watercraft on large lakes for extended periods of time.
- Ability to safely trailer, launch, and operate motorized watercraft.
- Excellent human relation, and communication skills, sufficient to represent the position and Division in a professional, efficient, and clear manner.

### Preferred Qualifications:

- A working knowledge of plant taxonomy and experience using botanical keys to identify plants.
- Formal training in geo-spatial (ArcGIS) software with proficiency sufficient to create survey maps and edit data.
- Advanced database knowledge and experience using software to organize, query, and edit large datasets.
- Experience navigating with GPS.
- Experience conducting natural resource related field inventory surveys that require following a standardized protocol.
- Experience conducting plant surveys that require identifying plants to the species level.
- Experience operating watercraft.
- Experience trailering and launching watercraft.

### Physical Requirements:

Requires lifting and carrying heavy equipment (max of 50 pounds) -- such as batteries, and boat gas tanks.

### License Requirements:

MN Class D Driver's license or equivalent: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow a trailer as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

**To apply, go to the State of Minnesota career website:**

[Link to the state of Minnesota career webpage](#)

**Follow all the instructions for Job ID 36640.**

**Applications must be received by January 31, 2020.**

**For questions contact:** Stephanie Simon, Lake Ecology Unit, 218-308-2465,  
[stephanie.simon@state.mn.us](mailto:stephanie.simon@state.mn.us)