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Crane Trust Science & Research Internship

Position Type: Seasonal position

Date of Employment: June 2 to August 16 (4 days per week)

Location: Wood River, NE

Stipend: \$1,600/month with dormitory-style housing provided

Website: cranetrust.org

Description

We are seeking one Science and Research Internship position to serve as part of our science team at the Crane Trust for the 2025 June – August field season. The position will involve working on various projects in our Long-Term Monitoring Plan and performing the duties described below. This position is a great opportunity to learn the dynamics of holistic conservation in a declining but biologically important habitat.

Projects and Duties

Avian: Assisting with avian point count surveys throughout the summer seasons.

Vegetation: Helping record data to assess management strategies for various vegetative communities throughout Crane Trust land. Reading taxonomic keys to identify species. Contributing to our herbarium and plant pressing. Collecting native seeds for Crane Trust prairie restorations.

Anuran: Learning and conducting field-based anuran call surveys.

Butterfly Species of Concern Surveys: Conducting surveys for Regal Fritillary and Monarch butterflies.

Small Mammal: Setting Sherman box traps along long-term monitoring transects to collect species diversity and abundance data. Identifying small mammal species.

Fish Seining: Surveying sloughs for fish species and associated communities using seine nets.

Bison Health: Collecting and processing bison biometric data for long-term genetic and health studies.

Data Collection and Entry: Keeping accurate and organized data for all surveys and entering data into digital databases.

Scientific Research: Assisting with scientific manuscripts at different stages of publication (data analysis, writing, etc.) based on interest, skill level, and personal initiative.

Conservation Storytelling: Documenting the position experience and producing media content to tell the story of conservation in the Central Platte River Valley.

Outreach and Education: The position will be expected to educate guests throughout the position timeframe at our Nature and Visitor Center and Headquarters complex, along with other staff and volunteers, with seasonal events and tours.

Qualifications

A high school degree along with being currently enrolled in a college with interest in a degree with a major or minor in the biological sciences or related field.

Field experience is a bonus, and a personal connection to and enjoyment of nature is foundational to success in this experience. The intern is required to learn and conduct specific protocols associated with the above duties. A strong drive to learn, grow, and take initiative often sets apart excellent candidates. Our tallgrass prairie system is beautiful and highly diverse, although you will be exposed to many biting insects, hot, humid weather conditions, and poisonous plants. Knowing you enjoy working outside for extended periods of time, despite some basic lack of comfort, is a must.

Housing is provided and includes private rooms with shared men's bathrooms, women's bathrooms, a kitchen, and a commons area.

You must also be good at working in close quarters with other people. These will be the same people you will work long field hours with and collaborate with on research projects. An ability to get along with others is a must.

Must be able to hike moderate distances over uneven terrain and lift up to 50 lbs.

Skills or exposure to the following are highly beneficial: Microsoft Office, Access, Excel, R, ArcGIS, and DNR Garmin.

You must also have proof of personal health insurance and a valid driver's license.

Deadline

The application deadline is March 23, 2025, and interviews will be conducted in the following weeks.

Application Instructions

To apply, send one document, preferably a PDF, containing your resume/CV, contact information, at least three references (from at least two different positions/schools/organizations), and a cover letter no longer than one page detailing your interests in our research projects, your skillset, important experiences (educational, volunteer, or work highlights), and a little about your philosophy on conservation and work. Thank you for your interest in this position.

Please email applications to the below address, and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Contact Information

Dr. Abraham Kanz
Director of Conservation Research
akanz@cranetrust.org
Crane Trust
6611 W Whooping Crane Drive
Wood River, NE 68883