



Policy & Communications Intern Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve – St. Jones Reserve

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DELAWARE STATE PARK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



CLICK HERE TO APPLY: <https://destateparks.com/volunteer/positions>

MISSION

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) is one of 29 National Research Reserves across the country whose goal is to establish, protect, and manage natural estuarine habitats for research, education, and coastal stewardship. It was established in 1993, and is a cooperative program between the State of Delaware and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Our mission at the DNERR is to preserve and manage natural resources through coastal stewardship within the Reserve as a place for research, and for providing education and outreach programs that promote better understanding of Delaware's estuarine and coastal areas, and to promote informed coastal decision-making.

DESCRIPTION

Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) is currently seeking applications for a Policy and Communications Intern. The intern will learn about estuarine ecology, coastal processes, and environmental policy and planning with a focus on engaging community decision-makers on issues such as coastal hazards, climate change, and sea level rise. The intern will learn how to help communities and the state address coastal resource management issues through translating scientific information into appropriate materials and engagement activities. The intern will practice communication and engagement techniques to use in a variety of settings and gain valuable hands-on science policy experience as well as communications, leadership, and organizational skills.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the internship, the intern:

- Will have a working knowledge of current coastal resource management issues in the state of Delaware
- Will be able to effectively communicate coastal science to decision makers in order to address community needs.
- Will be able to assist with the development of programs to engage communities and coastal resource decision makers.
- Will be able to create engaging and effective online and written communication.
- Will improve public speaking skills.

LOCATION

Blackbird Creek Reserve, Townsend, DE

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/DNERR/Pages/BlackbirdCreekReserve>

TERM

Summer – 12 weeks – Full Time 37.5 hours per week

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Contribute to the development of coastal resource decision maker engagement events and pertinent materials
- Research and draft articles, fact sheets, e-newsletters, or web content on a broad range of research, stewardship and education projects at the Reserve for distribution to decision makers and the public
- Research and communicate coastal resource management including but not limited to: coastal hazards, climate change and sea level rise
- Assist in the management of Reserve social media platforms including blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Assist with community technical assistance projects
- Assist with administering and running training programs
- Assist with staffing information booths at community events
- Data entry and other administrative duties at the Reserve
- Other duties as assigned, based on intern interest areas and organizational needs

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Bachelor's or master's degree (or degree in progress) in environmental studies, political science, communications, journalism, or a related field.
- Interest in environmental conservation and climate adaptation policies with enthusiasm for the communication of pertinent information to coastal resource decision makers
- Ability to represent DNERR professionally at meetings and events.
- Strong writing and research skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Detail-oriented
- Ability to work in a team or independently as needed
- Experience public speaking
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Experience with Photoshop, database, layout and web software, video editing and/or online social media a plus
- Possession of a valid driver's license and own transportation

DIRECT SUPERVISOR

The direct supervisor will be the Coastal Training Program Coordinator.

BENEFITS

- **Training:** A hallmark of the program, interns receive training from the field experts they will be working with. In addition to this formal and informal training to successfully conduct their internship assignment, interns will have the opportunity to build associated skills and share real-time experience with park staff and colleagues. Training will be made available to the interns to further their personal and professional development.
- **Housing:** Limited co-ed housing is available, at no fee, for interns providing full-time hours (30 or more per week). If selected for housing, an intern will share a house, duplex or dorm facility with other interns.
- **Activities:** Interns will have the opportunity not only to visit ALL Delaware State Parks at no fee, but also participate in many of the tours, programs, and associated events for free. Delaware State Parks span the length of the state and whether it be canoeing at Trap Pond State Park, surfing at Delaware Seashore State Park, attending a concert at Bellevue State Park, or touring the living history facility at Fort Delaware, there is certainly something for everyone.

- **Stipend Available:** Interns are not employees of the State of Delaware- they are considered volunteers and are not paid for their service. Interns may elect to receive a stipend to help cover expenses incurred during their volunteer intern service. The stipend is a fixed amount of \$100 per week for service of 30 or more hours per week or \$50.00 per week for service of between 20 – 29 hours/ week paid biweekly as a direct deposit into the Intern’s bank account.
 - The stipend is not a wage, but does count toward the total income on which the intern’s tax obligation is based. Interns electing to receive the stipend will complete IRS Form W-9 Request for Tax-Payer Identification as self-employed and will receive a Form 1099 at the end of the year that reports the amount of income from the stipend. No taxes are withheld from the stipend.

All Delaware State Parks Interns are required to undergo and successfully complete a background check performed by the Division.

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The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce

