



## Research Intern - Microplastics

### Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve – St. Jones Reserve

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DELAWARE STATE PARK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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

#### DESCRIPTION

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.

Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) is currently seeking applications for a Research Intern. The intern will assist an Environmental Scientist with a research and monitoring project focusing on microplastics. The intern will gain hands-on research experience, including data collection and interpretation, and learn about on-going research efforts in estuarine ecosystems.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the internship, the intern will:

- Be able to describe marine debris and microplastics thoroughly
- Be able to find and identify microplastics using various characteristics
- Understand and demonstrate various research methodologies used for microplastics identification and sample processing
- Be able to manage and interpret scientific data

**LOCATION** St. Jones Reserve, Dover, DE  
<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/dnerr/pages/stjonesreserve.aspx>

**TERM** Summer – 12 weeks – Full Time 37.5 hours per week

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Process sand samples collected from the DNERR to identify microplastics
- Manage and interpret microplastics data
- Participate in Reserve-related education and stewardship events as appropriate
- Develop an independent research project, as time allows
- Assist with various other ongoing DNERR research
- Other duties as assigned, based on organizational needs

**REQUIRED SKILLS**

- Bachelor's or master's degree (or degree in progress) in environmental science, biology, chemistry or a related field
- Ability to spend long days processing samples in a lab setting
- Experience using a microscope
- Strong writing and research skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Detail-oriented, focused, and punctual
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office products (Excel, Word and PowerPoint).
- Possession of a valid driver's license and own transportation

**DIRECT SUPERVISOR**

The direct supervisor will be the Environmental Scientist.

**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.**

**TO APPLY:** <https://www.destateparks.com/volunteer/positions>



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