

Spring 2012 Internships
McHenry County Conservation District

- POSITION:** **Native Plant Phenology Project Research Intern– Glacial Park, Richmond, IL**
- DEPARTMENT:** **Natural Resource Management**
- DISCIPLINES:** **Natural Resource Management or Biology**
- JOB DESCRIPTION:** Primary duties include: oversee and implement the first field season of a volunteer-based research project to collect botanical phenology data (i.e., bloom time and seed ripeness data) from 75-100 indicator species across Conservation District sites. Intern will generate native plant identification keys, will provide volunteer training meetings, will make volunteer assignments, and will coordinate volunteers as needed in the field. Once the data is collected, intern will confirm the data's accuracy and will enter it into a Microsoft Access database. Finally, intern will compare the current data set with a similar 1980s dataset to detect botanical phenology trends. Intern may perform other duties as assigned, such as participating in controlled burns.
- EDUCATIONAL VALUE:** Intern will improve Midwestern native plant identification skills through the generation of plant identification keys, and through the completion of fieldwork collecting botanical data. Intern will improve written and oral communication skills by training, coordinating, and supervising volunteers. Intern will also obtain skill in entering, managing, and analyzing floristic data in a Microsoft Access database.
- QUALIFICATIONS & WORKING CONDITIONS:** Applicants should be in the process of obtaining a Bachelors degree relating to the field of biology or natural resources, or possess equivalent knowledge and experience working in the field of biology or natural resources. Proficiency in Microsoft Access, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, ArcMap GIS software, and in utilizing GPS units. Experience setting up research projects, and in volunteer coordination and/or supervision. Knowledge of Midwestern native plant communities, and native plant identification and terminology skills preferred. Applicants should have a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Work is both indoors and outdoors. Prolonged periods of time spent sitting, walking, and standing. Applicant will usually work in an independent setting, however, on occasion will work in a group setting. Requires a sighted individual to accurately identify plants. This work also requires an individual with normal hearing for interacting with employees and public. Possible work hazards include use of power equipment (i.e. string trimmers, atv, etc) and smoke inhalation from controlled burns.
- SCHEDULE:** 27 weeks beginning April 2, 2012; 40 hour work week Monday through Friday, usually 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- WAGES & BENEFITS:** \$12.00 per hour, college credit as approved by applicant's institution and advisor. On-site housing available on a first-come basis at a cost of \$50 per week.
- APPLICATION:** Send MCCD job application, cover letter, resume of relevant training and experience, dates of availability, and (unofficial) transcript. Evaluation of applications begins as they are received so early application is encouraged. Application due by February 24, 2012.

McHenry County Conservation District
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