SCIENCE WRITING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INTERNSHIP

Are you passionate about conservation and the environment?

Do you want to help the public understand the science behind current environmental issues?

Then practice your communication and writing skills this summer with Iowa’s premier science and conservation organizations in the Iowa Great Lakes region of northwest Iowa!

DESCRIPTION

The Science Writing and Communications Internship is a paid position jointly offered by the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, the Friends of Lakeside Lab and the Okoboji Protective Association. The selected intern will live on the campus of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on the shores of Lake West Okoboji in northwest Iowa. Meals are included for the first eight weeks while Lakeside classes are in session.

- The intern will assist each organization in promotion and coverage of public events, including:
- Writing press and photo releases about the sponsoring organizations’ public events, science programs and initiatives. This includes topics such as water quality, invasive species, and ecology.
- Writing and contributing feature stories for newsletters and local media, including the Lakeside alumni newsletter, the Okoboji Protective Association newsletter, and the Friends of Lakeside Lab annual report
- Create fact sheets, brochures, etc. as needed for each organization
- Assist with maintaining and updating Lakeside’s water quality blog, and the OPA and Lakeside Facebook pages
- Updating and maintaining a list of print, radio and other media contacts
- Depending on the needs of each organization and intern skills, he/she may also assist with public events, photography, graphic design, displays and much more.

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QUALIFICATIONS

- Major in journalism, public relations, communication, English, environmental science and/or related field(s)
- Strong interest in the outdoors, water quality, science, conservation
- Excellent writing and organizational skills
- Willingness to take initiative and motivated to seek new learning opportunities
- Keen attention to detail when proofreading, copy editing and fact checking
- Experience in social media and command of the Internet
- Interest in people, education, and scientific research, human dimensions of environmental issues

AVAILABILITY

The paid internship runs 13 weeks from May 19 to August 8. Begin/end dates are somewhat flexible. Lodging at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is included and meals when Lakeside classes are in session (May 19 to July 22).

APPLICATION and DEADLINE

Applications will be accepted through March 15 or the position is filled. To apply for the internship, please email the information below to Jane Shuttleworth (jane-shuttleworth@uiowa.edu). For more information contact her or Lisa Roti at lisa-roti@uiowa.edu.

- One page cover letter describing how the proposed internship supports your interests and professional goals
- Resume
- 4-6 writing samples, including articles and press releases
- 2 references, including a professor from your field

ABOUT THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is a biological field station of Iowa’s state universities located in the Iowa Great Lakes region of northwest Iowa. Lakeside has provided summer classes and research opportunities to college students since 1909, and offers a variety of summer and year-round environmental education programs for learners of all ages. Lakeside conducts water monitoring and research through the Richard Bovbjerg Water Chemistry Lab operated in partnership with the State Hygienic Lab. The Friends of Lakeside Lab, its non-profit partner, provides valued support for Lakeside’s water quality monitoring, research and environmental education programs. The Okoboji Protective Association established in 1904, is one of Iowa’s longest running and accomplished conservation organizations. Their mission is to improve and enhance the water quality and ecological health of Lake West Okoboji and the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed.