

DIVERSITY IN CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP



PHOTO BY CAITLIN WILLIAMSON



2023 Highlights

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Diversity in Conservation Internship Program provides **meaningful, paid experiences for undergraduates interested in careers in natural resource conservation.**

The goals of this cohort-based program are to introduce students to the field of conservation and its career pathways, while strengthening the knowledge and skills of participants to **meet the need for diverse professionals in Wisconsin's conservation field.**

In addition to weekly seminars and professional development programming, this year's cohort took field trips to the Kemp Natural Resources Field Station, the Ho-Chunk Sacred Earth Reservation, Devil's Lake State Park, the International Crane Foundation, the Milwaukee River, and Hopkins Hollow in Milwaukee.

This year we hosted 10 interns, who were paired with Wisconsin conservation organizations for a unique internship experience. Interns also participated in weekly programming and field trips that connected them to Wisconsin's natural resources, conservation professionals, and future career opportunities in conservation. **Read on to learn more about this year's interns!**



3

universities



8

host
organizations



10

interns



25

conservation
professionals
networked



4,000

hours of
conservation
experience



PHOTOS BY CATHY WILLIAMSON, BOTTOM RIGHT COURTESY OF NICK SAUNDERS

"As much as I wanted to pursue a career in conservation, I thought it wasn't somewhere where I belonged... finding this internship seemed like the perfect opportunity and introduction to this field and I knew I wanted to apply."

-Nick Saunders, 2023 Cohort

MEET THE INTERNS

Arianna Barajas

International Crane Foundation

“Entering my last year of college, I felt worried I wouldn't find adequate experience before graduating. Entering the field later than most and never having many outdoor experiences growing up, I felt behind in my career. However, participating in NRF's internship, I now feel as if I have the experiences and knowledge I need to continue down a path in conservation.”



Raquel Bello

Aldo Leopold Nature Center

“I wanted to learn more about prairie burning, invasive species removal, grant writing, identifying organisms, and learning the ins and outs of the nature center, which is a non-profit organization. I completely believe I made a lot of progress towards these goals this summer.”



Jaeden Carrasquillo

The Nature Conservancy - Milwaukee Program

“My favorite parts of the internship include (but are in no way limited to) the weekly outings to Havenwoods and Hopkins Hollow to do invasive species removal and other land stewardship efforts, being able to interview those working in the conservation field and hear their individual experiences with the work they're doing and how they feel diversity is coming into the field, and how I've been able to fall in love with photo taking and being given the opportunity to tell people's stories.”



Eliana Cook

UW-Madison Arboretum

“Although it didn’t seem like much at first, participating in activities like cutting down invasive brush and hand-pulling invasive plants allowed me to witness the impact of my efforts over time. It felt good to see the progress made from the start of my internship to the end. I have a new well-rounded skill set, and a network of supportive professionals who share my vision.”



Olivia Kress

Wisconsin DNR - Fisheries

“My favorite parts were definitely getting out into the field and getting those hands-on experiences with different aspects of the fisheries management career. I loved electrofishing and actually getting to be around the fish ... In the future, I want to look into finding jobs related to water and fisheries management and definitely looking into those marine biology related careers that interest me as well.”



Xia Lowery

Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin

“This internship has opened my mind up to the idea of working on the communications side of conservation. I really like the outreach that is involved and the networking aspects that are behind any and every conservation organization. Ultimately, this internship has been life changing in the way that I approach my education and professional development. ... Thanks to NRF I am actually excited about what my future holds.”



Emma Moya

Zoological Society of Milwaukee

“Growing up I never learned how I can help in the conservation world, especially within ocean conservation or what conservation may look like. ... But being a part of NRF and ZSM has opened my eyes and even made me realize the type of conservation work that I want to be a part of which is ocean conservation.”



Nick Saunders

Zoological Society of Milwaukee

“As much as I wanted to pursue a career in conservation, I thought it wasn’t somewhere where I belonged. Eventually I found it hard to stay passionate about what I was studying without having an overarching goal of helping the environment. Finding this internship seemed like the perfect opportunity and introduction to this field and I knew I wanted to apply.”



Drake Stallworth

Wisconsin DNR - Bureau of Office of Applied Science

“I did things such as waterfowl banding, elk calf searches, and even got to go in a fixed-winged aircraft to do bear telemetry. My time with the Snapshot Wisconsin program has made me more confident and certain of what I want to do once I graduate. Considering everything I have learned in my role, I feel as though a position that is founded in educational outreach with some field work is the right fit for me.”



Tina Tran

Gathering Waters

“During my internship, I was able to see what it was like to work with a nonprofit organization and see what the day-to-day work consisted of. Since this was my first internship, I was able to experience what it was like to work in a professional environment. After this internship, I realized that I was interested in continuing my professional experience in the conservation field.”



PHOTO CREDIT: NICK SAUNDERS, DRAKE STALLWORTH, TINA TRAN.



PHOTO: CAITLIN WILLIAMSON

2023 Partnering Organizations

Thank you to our partners at Lawrence University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the following conservation organizations who hosted interns through the Diversity in Conservation Internship Program this year:

- Aldo Leopold Nature Center
- Gathering Waters
- Green and Healthy Schools
- International Crane Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- UW-Madison Arboretum
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Zoological Society of Milwaukee

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to these donors and NRF's members for their support of this impactful program.

Lux Foundation



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