

## **Internship Opportunities with the CER**

### **Internship Program Description:**

Interns work side-by-side with CER professional staff to complete environmental restoration projects within protected natural areas in northern Kentucky, mostly parks and wildlife management areas. Most internship opportunities are field work, and are based out of NKU's campus location in Highland Heights, KY and interns work on nearby restoration projects. Generally, there is one office-based internship position in Highland Heights, KY. Some additional field work opportunities are based in Maysville and interns work on projects in Maysville and/or Carlisle, KY. Housing and/or travel assistance are provided to interns working with the Maysville-based crew. Additional program information is available at [nku.edu/cer](http://nku.edu/cer).

Internships may be part time or full time, and are generally whole-day work days, one to five days per week. Employment cycles generally correspond with NKU semesters. Opportunities are available year-round.

Training is provided and no prior environmental restoration experience is required. Requirements for interns include the ability to lift 50 pounds and to perform physically demanding labor in natural environments and in all weather conditions. Longer-term internships may require obtaining a Kentucky Pesticide Applicator license. Individuals may be eligible for higher pay rate based upon relevant experience, demonstrated leadership qualities, passing the pesticide applicator licensure test, and other factors.

### **Internship Positions to be Filled Next Employment Cycle:**

- Positions on both field crews are open for any of the internship types described below.
- Applicants should indicate what days they are available and which crew they are interested in, or both.

**Intern Pay Rate:** \$18-\$22/hour

### **Internship Position Descriptions:**

- Undergraduate Student Interns
- Early Professional Interns
- Vocational Interns

Internship position descriptions are as follows:

## Undergraduate Student Interns

*Available to undergraduate college students*

Job Title: **Environmental Technician**. NKU Position #: 30001405 (or 30022578 for non-NKU undergrads)

This internship is for undergraduate college students and entails primarily fieldwork. Student interns are hired by academic semesters, and most choose to remain employed by CER for multiple semesters and multiple years. Interns may participate in invasive plant species removal by applying herbicide through foliar spray and cut stump techniques. Depending upon project requirements and timing, other opportunities may include participating in stream assessments and biological monitoring, conservation easement inspections, sediment and erosion control, and native seeding and straw application. Many interns also have the opportunity to operate compact construction equipment such as Bobcat track loaders and excavators.

## Early Professional Interns

*For recent college graduates, graduate students, & others seeking early professional conservation experience.*

Job Title: **Environmental Specialist**. NKU Position #: 30022578

This internship is for new environmental professionals, entails office and/or fieldwork, and promotes leadership, management and/or technical skill development and application. Environmental Specialist interns are hired by academic semesters, but employment can be extended for up to 12 months. Field activities for this internship often include managing and leading small crews undertaking invasive plant removal programs, including keeping detailed herbicide records with maps of treatment areas in accordance with regulations. Depending upon project needs and timing, additional field activities may include managing and leading stream assessments, macroinvertebrate assessments, conservation easement inspections, sediment and erosion control, and other conservation efforts. Many Environmental Specialist interns also have the opportunity to operate compact construction equipment such as Bobcat track loaders and excavators. Office activities usually include preparing plans and/or monitoring reports for restoration projects under the direction of CER staff and using prior-submitted and approved documents as templates, and co-presenting them to regulatory agency personnel for review and approval. Environmental Specialist interns undertaking office activities should be confident working with ArcPro and ArcOnline to create and edit project maps, have good organizational and technical writing skills, and have the ability to work well independently.

## Vocational Interns

*For individuals seeking vocational training to enter conservation, equipment operation, or related fields.*

Job Title: **Environmental Technician/Operator**. NKU Position #: **TBD**

This internship is for those seeking vocational training and employment as environmental technicians and operators, and entails primarily fieldwork. Technician/Operator interns are hired in four-month increments, but employment can be extended for up to 12 months. Technician/Operator interns operate and maintain compact construction equipment for environmental restoration projects including Bobcat track loaders and excavators, four-wheel drive vehicles, haul trailers, etc., and/or they are engaged in invasive plant control programs applying herbicide and using chainsaws, backpack sprayers, etc. Additionally, Technician/Operator interns may participate in restoration site surveys, sediment and erosion control, and other conservation tasks.