

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Careers, Internships, and Other Opportunities

Help Us Conserve the Nature of America

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Photo credit: USFWS

From Alaska's tundra to Maine's rocky coastline, from the desert southwest to the prairies, our national wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, wildlife management areas, ecological services field stations, and law enforcement offices offer opportunities for you to shape your future while working for conservation. Whether you are still enrolled in school, or you are a recent graduate, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provides a

variety of training and employment opportunities.

Career Positions

There are over 70 careers in the FWS to choose from for dedicated individuals with diverse education and training backgrounds. Most professional FWS jobs require a college degree with several having specific academic credit requirements. Common majors include Biology, Botany, Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Natural Resource Management, Park and Recreation Management, Environmental Science, Education, Human Resource Management, Facilities Management, Public Administration, Business Management, and Law Enforcement. FWS offers good pay, job security, a great benefits package and work locations in every state.

Most job openings are listed on the USAJOBS website. Applicants can search jobs by category, location and other criteria. At the USAJOBS site, you can create a personal account where you can build, upload and post your resume and supporting documents, such as college transcripts. [View FWS vacancies at USAJOBS](#) to apply for our opportunities.



Photo credit: USFWS

FWS Appointed Internships

FWS internships provide young people with a rich experience from which to continue further education and launch professional careers. Many of the jobs involve work in wildlife or visitor service related fields that include monitoring and assessing threatened/endangered species and habitats, conducting visitor service programs, general maintenance and management, or cultural/historical resource management.

FWS hires several federal interns each year through two components of the Pathways Program: 1) The Pathways Internship Program targets current students enrolled in high school, or college or technical school, at least half time. 2) The Pathways Recent Graduates Program targets individuals who apply within two years of graduation (this is extended for veterans). These programs are designed to provide current students and recent graduates with practical hands-on job experiences that can eventually lead to established careers within government service. [Learn more pathways program for students and recent graduates.](#)

Directorate Fellows Program (DFP)

FWS collaborates with non-government conservation organizations to provide intern opportunities for undergraduate rising seniors and graduate students to participate in 11-week scientifically rigorous projects in biological science/natural resource management or related fields. Candidates who complete all internship and school requirements may be eligible for a direct appointment with the Service. DFP project opportunities are usually announced between November and January each year. During the open period, the DFP opportunities will be posted on designated webpages.



Photo credit: USFWS

Other Partner Internship Opportunities

FWS also collaborates with partner organizations to provide other intern opportunities where students can gain valuable experience in conservation related activities at FWS field offices, while employed with the partner organization. The partner internships also help FWS promote and build a robust and diverse applicant pool pipeline for our FWS-appointed positions. Visit our opportunities to visit a few of the conservation organizations that provide intern opportunities at our FWS field offices.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

YCC is a summer employment program for young people ages 15-18. Students work and learn as a team while engaged in environmental stewardship experiences. The YCC focuses on youth development, natural resource stewardship and conservation, creating positive community involvement and career exploration. Programs are typically 8 weeks long from June through August. Participants gain a variety of experiences from biological monitoring to facilities maintenance and visitor services. To request info on YCC opportunities, contact the FWS regional office, wildlife refuge or fish hatchery nearest you. [Use our FWS office locator.](#)



Photo credit: USFWS

Volunteer Positions

A great way to gain experience in the conservation field and to help you decide upon your career is to volunteer at a national wildlife refuge, fish hatchery, and other FWS offices. Volunteer positions are unpaid, but volunteers receive considerable benefits such as learning valuable technical skills and making professional contacts, while working in some of America's most beautiful landscapes. [Visit our FWS Volunteers page](#) to learn about getting involved in volunteer opportunities at our refuges and fish hatcheries.



Photo credit: USFWS

For information on all FWS opportunities,

- [Visit our FWS opportunities page.](#)
- Click link "sign up here" and stay connected to receive updates on FWS opportunities.
- For other questions/inquiries, email us at connect@fws.gov.



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