

**Prairie Builder Internships:**

Friends of the Prairie Learning Center (Friends) sponsor internships at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Working with refuge staff and volunteers, interns preserve a piece of Iowa's natural heritage by helping with refuge environmental education and interpretation, ecological restoration, and biological research. Full-time, seasonal paid internships (with biology or visitor services) are available. College students can also tailor internships to their interests and schedule and receive academic credit. **Nine to 12 week paid full-time internships are available with corresponding stipends of \$2880-3800.**

**Deadline** is Feb. 26, 2010 for all internships

1) A **resume** highlighting education and work experience, including

- Your name; address; phone number; email;
- A description of job or volunteer experience related to this position (prairie ecosystems, interpretation, environmental education, field research, and/or biological sciences);
- Relevant coursework;
- Other relevant knowledge, skills, or experience;
- Names and contact information for 3 references.

2) A **cover letter** describing why you would like to participate in this internship program and what you hope to gain from this experience. **Be sure to indicate which internship(s) you are applying for** (biology, visitor services, or both) and **dates you are available**.

3) A **written recommendation by an educator or employer**

**Send the above information to:**

Friends of the Prairie Learning Center  
Box 399  
Prairie City, IA 50228

The selection process will rely heavily on this application and the written recommendation. A telephone or personal interview may be conducted prior to the final selection.

**All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license.**

**Biology Internships:**

*Refuge Biological program:* Biology interns perform an array of work contributing to ecological restoration at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Interns will be integrally involved in the biological program, including invasive species monitoring and control, propagation and care of seedlings in a greenhouse setting, transplanting container-grown plants, and maintaining plant production facilities. In addition, interns have the opportunity to collect, clean, and process prairie and savanna seed. Other biological monitoring opportunities may be available. Interns will work with herbicides after successfully passing the herbicide applicators test. Biology interns are needed between March 1 and October 30.

*Land Management and Research Demonstration program:* As a part of the Land Management and Research Demonstration program, there are opportunities to be involved in research and developing outreach programs of national significance. Among the intern experiences in this program are field data gathering, data analysis and management, and development of outreach programs interpreting research results or prairie and savanna management techniques.

**Visitor Services Internships:**

Visitor service interns translate the refuge's ecological, historical and societal relevance in environmental education and interpretive programs to the public. Much of interns' contact with the

public is with school groups. Interns also assist Visitor Services Staff with coordinating special events, writing news releases, leaflets, articles, and other written material for the public and for media, and with daily operation of the visitor center and Friends' bookstore. Interns have the opportunity to develop their own refuge presentation in the form of on- or off-site talks and slide shows illustrating Refuge activities. Other duties include working with volunteers in stewardship activities around the Visitor Center, maintaining trails by collecting trash and trimming vegetation, and helping with other Visitor Services needs. The greatest opportunity of a visitor services internship is to hone skills in environmental education and interpretation of this cutting-edge prairie reconstruction effort.

**Work Conditions:**

The work for all internships requires physical exertion such as walking on wet, rough, or uneven surfaces; bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities. Work includes office and outdoor settings. There is a regular and recurring exposure to moderate risk and discomforts such as adverse weather conditions, insects, and dusty/noisy environments. Above all, there is an opportunity for a lot of learning and fun on a nationally significant tallgrass prairie and savanna ecological restoration project.