

Amphibian Research Internship

The USGS Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, is looking for a student intern for summer 2011 to assist with a project examining behavioral and physiological responses of red-back salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) to temperature and humidity changes under a model of climate change. Interns will work 20-40 hours a week in the Department of Conservation Biology Building at the National Zoological Park in Washington D.C.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist with feeding salamanders and monitoring fruit fly colonies
- Identify individual salamanders marked with visual implant elastomer (VIE) using a UV flashlight
- Observe and record behavioral interactions according to protocol
- Record, monitor and manipulate temperature and humidity levels in experimental chambers
- Assist with weighing and measuring individual salamanders
- Learn and follow all safety guidelines, operations, and policies of the unit

Qualifications

- Preference will be given to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a career in a related field
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work in a team environment with staff and other volunteers
- Flexibility and a good sense of humor
- Ability to strictly follow protocol guidelines and maintain meticulous data records

Term of Appointment

The summer session runs June 1 to August 30 (flexible).

Stipend/Credit

This is an unpaid, volunteer position. We will give strong support of the applicant's pursuit of college credit for experience during the internship.

Lodging

Interns will make their own arrangements in the Washington D.C. area.

Application Deadline

Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2011 and will be reviewed upon receipt until the internship is filled.

To Apply

Please send the following information in one email:

- * Name, home and college addresses and phone numbers, email address
- * Name of college or university, current academic status, curriculum (major and minor)
- * Degrees held or expected with institution names and dates conferred, or anticipated date(s) of conferment
- * A statement of your interest in pursuing this position. The statement should mention relevant experience, career goals, and reason for wanting this internship. Your statement is very important during application evaluations.
- * Three professional references

Application materials:

Please send applications and questions concerning this position to Eric Dallalio at edallalio@usgs.gov