

# SIUC – Center of Ecology Internship Opportunity

**Job Location** –Prairie Ridge State Natural Area - Jasper County (**Two Positions**)

**Natural Heritage Summer Intern-** Illinois Department of Natural Resources SIU Center of Ecology, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources IDNR), and the Natural Areas Association are offering **two** summer internships in southeastern Illinois. Learn conservation techniques from some of the best experts and organizations in the field while working in a natural setting. This internship will provide a one year membership to the Natural Areas Association. The mission of the Natural Areas Association is to advance the preservation of natural diversity. The Association works to inform, unite, and support persons engaged in identifying, protecting, managing, and studying natural areas and biological diversity across landscapes and ecosystems. A specific goal of the association is to provide information and expertise to those seeking a career in natural areas management.

Preferred candidates are students with a long-term interest in natural area conservation.

## **IDNR – Division of Natural Heritage**

It is the mission of the Division of Natural Heritage to protect, restore, manage, and promote the responsible use of the Illinois' native flora and fauna, natural communities, wildlife habitats, and ecosystems; and through our leadership, ensure for future generations of the greatest social, environmental and economic benefits that can only be provided through healthy ecosystems.

**Job Description:** Work with IDNR's Natural Heritage in southeastern Illinois. Possible work duties may include the following:

Land Stewardship Activities: Conducting management on Nature Preserves, Land and Water Reserves, and Natural Heritage Landmarks, such as controlling exotic and invasive native plants and animals, posting boundary signs, constructing prescribed burn firebreaks, collecting prairie seed and redistribute in restoration areas, monitoring threatened and endangered plant and animal populations. Other projects will include assisting with amphibian surveys as part of a research project, developing restoration plans and conducting mussel surveys. Prairie restorations will also include project sites funded by the Clean Energy Foundation. Office work will vary, and may include assisting with updating management plans, site surveillance forms, assisting with organizing landowner meetings, and conservation partnership meetings, researching information about threatened and endangered plant populations and management, and typing plant and animal lists for INAI sites.

Job will include some hiking in steep terrain, wading in aquatic habitats, spraying herbicides and working in hot humid conditions. Basic computer skills, and GPS knowledge helpful. Ability to operate 4 wheel drive vehicles, ATV's, small utility tractors and boats useful. Students will be required to test for a general use herbicide license.

For more information contact:

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