

Summer Job Opportunity



Position: Ecological Field Technician

Application Deadline: April 29, 2021 @ 17:00 (ADT)

Background

Be part of a unique ecosystem-wide study investigating the influences of wild horses on Sable Island National Park Reserve (SINPR), where you will work on the study and spend time exploring the island's beautiful landscape.

The Sable Island Institute (SII) and Parks Canada Agency (PCA) recently launched the 'Fences in the Sand' project to study the influences of wild horses on the island's unique ecosystem and biodiversity. For the next 5 years, changes inside temporarily fenced areas that restrict horse access will be documented and compared to changes measured in unfenced areas. Changes of particular interest include dune erosion, soil characteristics and communities, plant and pollinator communities, pond freshwater quality, and pond invertebrate communities. Species of concern, like Sweat Bees, Ipswich Sparrows, and Roseate Terns, will also be monitored.

The SII is seeking a qualified, outdoor enthusiast to work on this project, beginning in July 2021. The successful candidate will work closely with our Research Manager, Dr. Krista Patriquin.

Duties

- Assist with data collection, data entry, and data management – all related to the measures outlined above.
- Maintenance of field gear.
- Daily chores and preparation of meals.

What to Expect

Work

- 50 days of employment.
 - Training on the mainland, in and around Halifax.
 - Approximately 6 weeks on Sable Island (July and August).
 - Work varied hours (8-10 hours/day), weekends, and holidays.
 - Mostly outdoors, and often unsupervised, collecting data.
 - Indoors: sorting samples, managing data.

Travel

- Travel to the island on a small airplane or helicopter.
- Travel on island extensively by foot, in difficult terrain.
- Travel in varied terrain in a variety of vehicles (ATV, jeep, truck).

Life on Sable

- The technician will live in a shared smoke-free accommodation with amenities (i.e., fully equipped kitchen, indoor plumbing, TV, and limited internet). The technician may or may not share a room - depending on public health restrictions at the time.
- Technician will contribute to daily chores and preparation of meals.
- There may also be members of the public visiting the island on daytrips.

Expenses

- All costs related to travel to Sable Island from Halifax, ATV training, and housing and food while on the island will be covered by the SII.

Essential Qualifications

- Physically fit and willing/able to hike throughout the day.
- Experience with biological/ecological fieldwork.
- At least 3 years of undergraduate studies completed in a biological/ecological field of study.
- Attention to detail.
- Legal status to work in Canada. Please indicate status (citizenship, permanent resident, etc.).

Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in remote locations.
- Experience with data management, including using MS Access.
- Experience with plant, insect, and aquatic invertebrate ID.
- Experience with coastal/dune ecosystems.
- Good problem-solving skills.

- 2 -

Conditions of Employment (must continuously meet these conditions to retain employment)

- Valid driver's license.
- Successful completion of an ATV operators' course.
- Successful completion of emergency first aid and CPR certification.
- Willingness to work varied hours, weekends, holidays.
- Willingness to live and work in a remote location for six consecutive weeks.
- A negative PCR test for COVID-19.

How to Apply

- Please include, in a single .pdf file, the following:
 - A cover letter summarizing how you meet each of the 'Essential Qualifications', and why you are a good fit for this position. You have the option of including details about how you meet the 'Desired Qualifications'.
 - Your resume.
 - Names and contact information of three references.

- Submit the .pdf file to Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/XmP9nt73jkTwHa8RfS78>