

National Wildlife Refuges and Tigers for Tigers

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of habitats that benefits wildlife, provides unparalleled outdoor experiences for all Americans, and protects a healthy environment. Today, there are more than 560 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts, including one within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas. The National Wildlife Refuge Association (Refuge Association) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation through programs that support and strengthen the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Building diverse and active constituencies that can mobilize support for wildlife conservation is a fundamental function of the Refuge Association. Tigers for Tigers (T4T) is the founding program of the Refuge Association's Spirit Campaign, an effort to mobilize college students at tiger mascot schools to support international conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Whether it involves environmental education, outreach campaigns, managing a team or conducting meaningful conservation work, wildlife refuges offer fantastic internship prospects for our dedicated and passionate students.



The National Wildlife Refuge Association and Tigers for Tigers Piloted a Successful Summer Internship Program

In the summer of 2015, Tigers for Tigers, the Refuge Association and the USFWS partnered to provide two college students a three-month summer internship at a wildlife refuge. Last year's interns were exposed to a variety of experiences on national wildlife refuges including wildlife biology, environmental education and interpretation, conservation management, outreach and other refuge operations and maintenance.

Apply now to become a 2016 summer refuge intern.

REFUGE REQUIREMENTS

- The Refuge internship lasts 10-12 weeks.
- Interns will be registered as a Refuge Volunteer.
- Housing is provided by the Refuge.
- Travel expenses incurred enroute to the refuge and return home at completion of the internship are reimbursed by the refuge.

"We got a great all-around intern that could help us with a variety of projects. It was a win-win. We got help during a critical time, and she discovered that she would like to pursue a career with the USFWS."

— Michael Lusk, Refuge Manager at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

STUDENT BENEFITS

- Gain exposure to the USFWS, the National Wildlife Refuge System and Refuge Friends Group management.
- Gain real world experience in natural resource conservation and wildlife management.
- Improve valuable skills for future conservation careers.
- Become eligible for \$1500 in a scholarship towards their continuing education, upon successful completion of the summer internship.

REFUGE BENEFITS

- Refuge staff receive additional help and support during the critical summer months.
- T4T interns are able to participate in all desired refuge projects.
- T4T interns are experienced leaders who are passionate and dedicated to wildlife conservation

Meet the 2015 Interns



Clark's River NWR | Andy Eller, USFWS

Robin Lloyd

Intern at Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, Kentucky

Robin learned refuge operations and maintenance, environmental education and conservation biology with refuge staff while working directly with the Friends of Clark River National Wildlife Refuge group. Projects included: banding migratory songbirds, rehabilitating an injured kestrel and managing beaver dams. Robin also educated visitors about the local ecosystem and about broader environmental policy.

“Clarks River forced me to become a better biologist and has assured me that I am in the right field of study. I gained a tremendous amount of work experience.”

—Robin Lloyd, *Tigers for Tigers* intern from Auburn University



Sierra Hoisington

Intern at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia

In June, when visitation to the over 430,000-acre Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is at its peak, Sierra worked in visitor services before transitioning into hands-on swamp conservation work which included setting out bear transects and conducting monthly surveys of bird populations. Sierra also led two programs at the annual Junior Refuge Ranger Summer Camp that introduced young naturalists to wildlife biology and species native to Okefenokee.

“I have learned that people within the wildlife and conservation field have a passion and an aura about them that is unmatched by individuals in other fields.”

—Sierra Hoisington *Tigers for Tigers* intern from Clemson University



Okefenokee Swamp NWR | USFWS

Please contact Sean Carnell, the Spirit Campaign Manager of the National Wildlife Refuge Association at scarnell-t4t@refugeassociation.org for more information.