



3051 Cloptons Circle, Navarre FL 32566

(850) 684-1485

www.emeraldcoastwildliferefuge.org

Applications are currently being accepted for candidates 18 years or older interested in a rehabilitation internship at a wildlife refuge in the Florida panhandle. The Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge is a non-profit organization, which means the internship positions are unpaid and housing is not provided. The internship duration is 5 days (40 hours) per week for a minimum of 15 weeks (can be longer if desired) and interns will be scheduled to meet the needs of the refuge. The facility is open from 8am-4pm, but staff and interns work until all tasks are finished for the day, which can lead to extended hours.

Our internship program is designed to provide rehabilitation training that focuses on native Florida wildlife. With this training, the intern will be able to participate in actual patient care and practice hands-on wildlife rehabilitation skills. Upon successful completion of the internship, the intern will receive a certificate and documentation of the hours of service performed. The experience gained from the immersion into the world of wildlife rehabilitation and animal husbandry is extremely beneficial to those who are contemplating careers in the fields of veterinary medicine, wildlife management, wildlife rehabilitation, biology, or zoology.

Internship Session Dates:

Spring (February to May) – application deadline October 1st

Summer (May to August) – application deadline February 15th

Fall (August to November) – application deadline May 15th

* Internship dates are flexible to accommodate individuals and their academic calendars. *

Learning opportunities:

- Gain hands-on wildlife experience through proper handling, feeding, and rehabilitation procedures.
- Avian and mammalian neonate care.
- Obtain animal husbandry experience with a variety of wildlife species for permanent residents as well as rehabilitation patients.
- Exposure to the operations of a non-profit organization and a wildlife center.
- Knowledge of humane coexistence with wildlife.
- Perform initial exams and assessments of injured native wildlife such as raptors, songbirds, shorebirds, raccoons, foxes, squirrels, opossum, deer, and turtles/tortoises.
- Learn to calculate medicine dosages, administer fluids, give injections, bandage techniques, etc.
- Observing/assistance during marine mammal and sea turtle strandings/necropsies, as needed (not guaranteed).

Intern responsibilities:

- Complete daily exhibit/cage cleaning.
- Prepare diets, feed animals, and record appetite.
- Handle and restrain various wildlife species.
- After hours care for avian and mammalian neonates.
- Assist in rescuing injured and orphaned wildlife; assist in releasing animals when ready.

- Provide enrichment to permanent resident animals.
- Monitor animal areas and provide exemplary guest service to visitors.
- Convey potential problems to staff members.
- Assist with general housekeeping and other duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- Must have completed at least one year of undergraduate schooling and be pursuing a relevant degree. Recent graduates (0-2 years) with a relevant degree are also welcome.
- Ability to control the urge to play with/pet the wildlife.
- Ability to lift, push, or pull 30 pounds.
- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, bend, etc. for extended periods of time.
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions, especially high heat. Exposure to mosquitoes and other small insects is likely.
- Ability to cope with the preparation of meat-based diets for animals in our care.
- Ability to do basic math calculations.
- Ability to understand basic medical terminology.
- Ability to understand decision-making concerning quality of life issues and euthanasia for animal patients.
- Once trained, must be able to work with minimal supervision, yet must recognize limitations in knowledge and abilities and ask for help when needed.
- Ability to work independently for long periods of time, as well as work in a professional manner within a team atmosphere with other interns/volunteers/staff.

Please note: ECWR does not provide housing, transportation, or a stipend for the internship. These costs can be significant out-of-pocket expenses, so please give this due consideration before applying.

To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to:

Michelle Pettis, Intern Coordinator - mpettis@ecwildliferefuge.com