Sample

Internship Proposal Guidelines

Name (Student ID#):
Email:
Phone:
Major: Environmental Science, Biology emphasis
Class standing: Senior
Internship supervisor/contact info (phone & email): Theo Witsell, (501) 324-9615, theo.witsell@arkansas.gov
Internship institution/location: Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission; 1100 North Street, Little Rock, AR
UCA Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ginny Adams
Credit Hours Requested: 2
Internship Duration: 5 hours per week, 13 weeks
Applying for: SPRING

Objectives

As an intern at the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC), I hope to gain experience working in an herbarium. I want to learn to prepare specimens, mount them, and file them in an herbarium, as this is an important skill to learn as a plant scientist. Additionally, I want to work with rare species data in a GIS setting to plan efficient field visits to ANHC protected areas. If it is feasible schedule-wise, I would also like to join ANHC ecology team to the field to learn in-the-field practices. This kind of herbarium work is not available in a UCA course, and the rare species data is not available to work with in GIS classes at UCA.

Description

As an intern at the ANHC, I will work with the Arkansas state botanist and senior ecologist, Theo Witsell, to prepare herbarium specimens and enter data into the ANHC herbarium database. Working in this setting with specimens will provide me with hands-on experience to fulfill my objective of learning about herbaria workings. Additionally, as an intern, I will work in a GIS environment to identify areas with rare plants for a major upcoming ANHC project in Benton and Washington County. This program will help me connect the plant taxonomy and GIS practices I have learned in theory courses at UCA and apply them to real specimens and tax-payer funded projects. If field visits are possible, I will not just shadow the senior ecologists, but I will be able to be a part of the data-collection team and learn how in the field assessments are done.

Educational Benefits

At UCA, I have had the opportunity to take many theory courses about plant and insect taxonomy, ecological systems, and geographic principles. Additionally, I've been able to do applied work in other classes to learn the techniques to collect data and extract useful information from that data. The ANHC internship will allow me to work in a professional setting, handle plant specimens to solidify my understanding of plant taxonomy, and work with confidential rare species data to plan real, meaningful assessment trips for ecologists. While UCA courses have provided me with knowledge and tools, this internship will allow me to apply what I have learned outside of the confines of a class project. I am also excited to network with ecologists, data managers, and outreach coordinators during my time as an intern.

I eventually want to pursue a higher degree in ecology with an emphasis in spatial variations of plant-insect interactions. This internship would be perfect for me, as I can learn about plant species and connect those species in a spatial context utilizing the rare plant database. I will also be able to gain experience working in a government agency, which might be a place I end up working after obtaining a higher degree in ecology.

Assessment

My on-site supervisor, Theo Witsell can report to my on-campus supervisor, Ginny Adams, regarding my performance. I will turn in a bi-weekly (every other week) journal progress report to Dr. Adams in which I will describe what tasks I did in the past weeks and explain how those tasks have helped me work toward my objectives. At the end of the semester, I will write a research paper on a topic relevant to a certain project I work on during my internship. For example, such a paper might be about the effectiveness of remote sensing data (LiDAR, drone imagery) in mapping identifying rare species. Another example of what I might write a report about is a particular plant I work with in the herbarium, where it is in the state, and what kind of insects prey on it. Another option is I could provide a flowchart and report on my methods of deriving the spatial information that will be used in the Benton and Washington County ANHC project.

Ashley R. Bartos	11/20/18	Student
Signature	Date	
Theo Witsell	11/19/18	Internship Supervisor
Signature	Date	
	11/27/18	UCA Internship Advisor
Signature	Date	

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