



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

NORTHCENTRAL REGION

1566 SOUTH ROUTE 44 HIGHWAY JERSEY SHORE, PA 17740 | (570) 398-4744 | PGC-NCREGION@PA.GOV

PA Game Commission – Northcentral Region 2026 Summer Internships

Are you excited to begin a career in conservation but lack field training and experience? Do you want your first steps to contribute to the management and protection of wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping? If so, your goals align with the mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and our summer internship program is designed for you! Pennsylvania's wildlife agency seeks hard-working, highly motivated students eager to develop their conservation knowledge and skills while experiencing all the agency has to offer.

Available Opportunities and Learning Objectives:

Internship opportunities are available within four disciplines – forestry, habitat management, information & education, and wildlife biology. Descriptions of each are provided below. If applying for more than one position, please select the discipline you are most interested in. If awarded an internship, you will focus primarily on the designated subject area; however, exposure to and collaboration across disciplines will occur frequently and is considered an important part of the experience.

Forestry Internship (2 positions)

Work location(s): *NC Region (McKean, Potter, Clinton, Lycoming, Tioga, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Elk, Union Counties)*

The focus on habitat separates this internship from other introductions to forestry. Our forest management decisions impact wildlife as they shape the stage, quality, and quantity of forested habitat. Interns will report to and work daily with professional foresters. These foresters will provide a comprehensive look at forest management, how decisions are made, and what steps are involved. Interns will hone skills in tree, shrub, and plant identification. They will become familiar with timber typing, vegetative surveys (silvoh plots & stem counts), project layout, and forestry practices that create desired habitat conditions. Under supervision, interns will also experience tally and marking, herbicide application, timber sale/project administration, and road layout.

Habitat Management Internship (2 positions)

Work Location(s): *Potter and Tioga counties preferred, but McKean and Lycoming counties also accepted*

Providing hunters, trappers, and wildlife enthusiasts access to premier wildlife habitats is key to our mission. Controlling invasive species plays a critical role in preserving these wildlife habitats and allows native vegetation to succeed. Habitat management interns will learn how to safely



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apply herbicide to invasive plant species as well as operate farm implements and power/hand tools to mechanically control invasive outbreaks. Interns will also be responsible for independently mapping invasive species presence using GIS-based software on an agency-provided tablet. While invasive species treatments will be the focus of this internship opportunity, interns will also have the ability to assist with game lands maintenance and cross-train with forestry and wildlife management interns.

Information and Education Internship (1 position)

Work Location: *NC Regional Office, Jersey Shore, PA*

A key factor to a successful conservation agency is remaining relevant. The objective of this internship is to provide experience in the development and delivery of content that promotes the mission and values of the PA Game Commission. The intern will be immersed in operations to foster a comprehensive understanding of the agency's programs, goals, and accomplishments. Through the guidance of the regional information and education supervisor, the intern will develop content and draft articles for social media posts; create, package, and inventory promotional displays and items; coordinate and edit field note submissions; assist and develop R3 and outreach programs and events; assist with Youth Field Days, Junior Game Warden Camp, shooting events and inventory and update agency publications.

Wildlife Biology Internship (3 positions)

Work Location(s): *NC Region (Lycoming, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton or Union counties preferred).* This internship will offer real-world experience in the field of wildlife biology. Interns will assist agency biologists with wildlife management duties including radio telemetry, black bear capture and tagging, avian population surveys, monitoring raptor nest-boxes, waterfowl and mourning dove banding, Allegheny woodrat monitoring, habitat plan development, and various other wildlife and habitat surveys. Collaboration across professional disciplines will be encouraged to allow interns to cross-train with forestry, land management, and education teams. Interns may also gain experience in equipment operation (GPS, UTV, kayak, 4X4 and hand and power tools).
509 Pittsburgh Road

Salary and Starting Date:

Engineering, Scientific & Technical Intern

\$17.38 hour for 40 hours/week

Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (subject to change)

Maximum of 749 hours/calendar year

Anticipated starting date: May 18, 2026*

Anticipated ending date: August 14, 2026*

Subject to change based on student availability before/after these dates



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Job Requirements and Qualifications:

Work will be outdoors and involve traversing uneven terrain in all-weather conditions. The selected applicant must have a valid driver's license. Preferred candidates will have college level course work or experience in the fields of wildlife, forestry, or natural resource management.

- **Must be enrolled as a full-time student – carrying 12 credits.**
- **Students must be enrolled in a post-secondary program in a technical, scientific field of study. School credit will be determined by the college/university.**
- **A graduating High School student who is 18 and enrolled in the fall semester is eligible to apply.**

Qualifications:

- Hard-working and motivated
- Positive attitude and eager to learn
- Professional communication skills
- Open to collaboration/working with others
- Supportive of PGC's mission to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Preferred candidates will have college-level coursework or experience in the fields of wildlife, forestry, natural resource management, environmental education, communications, and/or marketing.

Additional Information:

You will participate in training the first week of your internship. This training will expose you to our culture and provide an overall picture of our agency/region. This introduction will provide a knowledge base to draw upon for the remainder of the internship and beyond.

Rewards:

Our goal is to mentor and recruit the next generation of conservation professionals. As an intern, you will explore career and agency opportunities, gaining an inside look into your future. You will develop specialized skill sets through hands-on application while being mentored by professionals within your field of study. You will receive a midterm and final evaluation, providing a forum for constructive feedback and questions. You will collaborate with other conservationists and participate in agency meetings, building a professional network into your future. Finally, interns who successfully complete the program may be considered for future employment opportunities with our agency.



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To Apply:

Internship applicants must be current full-time students who will return to college in fall of the same year of employment. ****All interested persons must email current resume and proof of college enrollment which must include students' name/ID number, university/college they are attending, the degree and courses they are enrolled in and number credits to the appropriate contact listed below**** Applicants must also specify which discipline(s) and work locations they would like to be considered for. Proof of Fall 2026 enrollment may be provided later (but prior to commencement of the internship). Interviews will be conducted to select the employee. All resumes must be postmarked **on or before February 15th, 2026.**

Questions?

Forestry Internships – Contact Dan Heggenstaller at dheggensta@pa.gov.

Habitat Management Internships – Contact Jason Wagner at jasonwagne@pa.gov

Information and Education Internships – Contact Shawna Burkett at shburkett@pa.gov.

Wildlife Biology Internships – Contact Mercy Melo at mmelo@pa.gov.