Internship: Lead a project focused on water usage mapping and water loss control at three Minnesota State Parks

Company: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Parks and Trials Division.

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is seeking a junior or senior college student to lead a project focused on water usage mapping and loss control with the DNR in three state parks in Eastern/Southeastern Minnesota. The three parks identified for this project are Whitewater State Park, Carley State Park, and Frontenac State Park.

The intern will work with MnTAP and DNR staff to audit water usage at all three parks and develop protocols to improve the quality and availability of water usage data. This will include evaluating metering practices, developing a water balance to estimate water usage, and refining maintenance protocols to improve the quality of data collected. The intern will also estimate water loss throughout park systems and develop recommendations to conserve water through loss control. As time allows, the intern may also make recommendations to reduce energy usage and reduce waste at park facilities.

JOB DUTIES:
As part of this project, you will be asked to complete the following tasks:

1. Identify and quantify water uses throughout each of three identified state parks.
2. Assess water usage data quality and make recommendations to improve the quality of data collection
3. Determine best practices for metering water usage and develop protocols to improve the quality of data collection
4. Estimate water loss and make recommendations, as appropriate, to conserve water through loss control.
5. Make recommendations and create an implementation plan for DNR to continuously improve data collection practices and plan future projects to improve data quality and control water loss.
6. As time allows, make recommendations to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste at park facilities.
7. Estimate reduction potential and costs associated with implementation of a recommended reduction opportunity, then prioritize suggested changes using simple payback methods to financially justify the alternative processes or equipment.
8. As appropriate, initiate approved changes and system upgrades and estimate the performance of upgraded systems.
9. Summarize findings in a detailed report, including recommended procedures and vendor proposals along with an economic analysis and justification of changes.
10. Present findings to the company and at MnTAP-hosted public presentation events.

As an intern, you will work at the company and report back to MnTAP. The position is full time, 40 hours per week, for three months to start after the conclusion of spring semester or quarter. Pay is $14/hour, with a stipend of $1,000 upon completion of the project deliverables: a final report and presentations. Cumulatively, this equates to $16.00/hour when averaged over the project. Candidates must have a valid driver’s license and pass a background check.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Good oral & written communication skills
- A technical academic background
- Troubleshooting skills
- Self-motivated
- Excel and other software skills
- Appropriate majors: Engineering, environmental or physical sciences and others as applicable

TO APPLY:
Apply online at: www.mntap.umn.edu/intern/student_apply.htm
Remember to submit your application form, cover letter, resume, and unofficial transcript.
Applications can be addressed to:
Nathan Landwehr, Intern Program Administrator
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 350-1
Minneapolis, MN 55455 • landwehr@umn.edu

MNTAP IS THE HIRING BODY: DO NOT CONTACT THE COMPANY

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