

**Position title:** MST (Microbial Source Tracking) Water Quality Intern

**Department:** Research

**Length of commitment:** June 15<sup>th</sup>- September 15<sup>th</sup> with the addition of a training event on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Hours per month:** Approximately 60 ranging from 5-20 per week.

**Hourly pay:** \$11.00 / hr.

**Position description:** The position is a part-time internship opportunity serving as the Water Quality Intern at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples, FL. This position will be responsible for biweekly water quality sampling taking place at Tigertail Lagoon in Naples as part of an effort to understand microbial communities in the water during seabird nesting season. The primary duties will include being responsible for the collection of biweekly water samples, reading a secchi disk, and taking YSI readings. Additionally, the intern will be responsible for maintaining detailed field and laboratory notes, data management, laboratory preparations, chain of custody documentation and transporting the samples to the laboratory. This position will also support the continued implementation of long-term water quality monitoring related to the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP), as mandated by NOAA. Other duties will include assist with water quality instrument calibration, deployment, and maintenance. Time permitting, the intern may also assist with other research program including but not limited to sea turtle monitoring, fisheries and shark sampling, and beach nesting bird monitoring. The intern will report to the Water Quality Program Manager and the Avian Specialist at Rookery Bay NERR. **Please note, this is an hourly paid position with variable hours on a biweekly basis. Weeks will alternate between 5-10 hours of work (A) and 15-20 hours of work (B). As an example, 1 month of work: Week 1 (5 hrs), Week 2 (20 hours), Week 3 (8 hours), Week 4 (16 hours).**

**Benefits:** The intern will learn standard ecological research and data management methodologies and gain valuable career-building experience and skills in the environmental science field, while supporting the important monitoring programs at Rookery Bay. They will attend a Florida DEP Standard Operating Procedure Training in Gainesville April 11-12, 2023. The intern will be required to always implement safe field and laboratory practices. This excellent opportunity can help shape the intern's future education and/or career goals.

**Requirements:** To be eligible, the prospective intern must be at least a sophomore college student with an interest in an environmental or natural science field. Prospective interns are required to have completed at least 9 credit hours of lecture/lab coursework that includes, biology, chemistry, ecology, or a related discipline. **The individual must be available to attend a DEP Training in Gainesville on April 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>** (all expenses paid). Prospective intern must be committed to working all mandatory sampling dates between June 20<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup>. The prospective intern will be required to follow a set work schedule, arrive on time each day they are scheduled to work, and complete all assigned tasks in a reasonable amount of time. The prospective intern must be prepared for work that involves being on a boat for extended periods and exposed to hot/cold weather, bugs, and intense sun. The prospective intern must be able to lift equipment and gear that can be up to 50 lbs and be familiar with scientific equipment use. They must also have a drivers license and be able to drive samples to a laboratory in Fort Myers. Preferred skills include: familiarity with scientific equipment and following established protocols, ability to work in the field, effective time management, and ability to work independently and as part of a team. The intern will be required to produce a final product such as an oral presentation, a poster presentation, or a technical report on a specific topic related to the internship.

**How to apply:** 1) Please write a cover letter describing why you want the internship, how it would help your education or career goals, and your interests in the natural sciences field; 2) please include a maximum 2-page resume that includes contact information, completed coursework, and any relevant experience, 3) please include a document with three valid references, and 4) Please email all content to Friends of Rookery Bay at [info@rookerybay.org](mailto:info@rookerybay.org); **please note: submissions are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.**