

Summer College Internships

PROJECT NORTHWOODS

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Hello!

Thank you for your interest in an internship with Project Northwoods! Please read the below information to learn more about our project and the opportunities we can offer you.

THE NORTHWOODS OF WISCONSIN

The Northwoods of Wisconsin covers the northern one-third of the state and is renowned for its richness of unique habitats, biodiversity and culture, while remaining remote and relatively underpopulated. With over 1.5 million acres of protected National Forest, plus numerous managed reserves, state forests and state parks, this is an ideal location to better understand our natural world and the interaction humans have with their surroundings.

OUR MISSION

Project Northwoods aims to conserve the ecology and culture of the Wisconsin Northwoods through education, research and global outreach. Our programs educate students of all ages, including early learners, K-12, college students and adults. Our research projects utilize the knowledge of locals and long-time seasonal visitors, and benefit the many threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna that are found in the Northwoods, some of which have geographic ranges no larger than the boundaries of these specific forests. Our outreach programs educate people from around the world, especially focusing on tourists to the area, about the importance of these forests, the native species and the rich cultures found throughout the area. Any opportunity to get people outside and to appreciate the out-of-doors is utilized to teach about our local environment and its role in the global ecological community.

FOCAL PROJECTS

Some projects that are a focus of Project Northwoods include:

- Research on native and exotic species, especially focusing on species of concern, threatened and endangered species of all taxa.

- Educating children, local residents and tourists about the importance of the unique Northwoods environment through workshops, citizen science projects, a nature center and outdoor activity opportunities.
- Encouraging people of all ages to get outside and enjoy the natural world around them, thus promoting an appreciation for stewardship of the Northwoods.
- Developing an appreciation for the rich culture of the Northwoods, especially as it pertains to the natural world.
- Research and rescue center for a variety of animals, especially turtles and snakes.

OUR FACILITIES

Project Northwoods was established in 2016 and opened our Nature Center in July 2017. Beginning in a very small space, we soon expanded in May 2019 to a larger building. Admittedly, this space is already full again and we are expanding again in the summer of 2022. Additionally, Project Northwoods owns about four acres of natural woodland with a stream and pond that is waiting to be explored and surveyed.

Housing for interns can be arranged. We have limited housing in a small rustic cabin on-site, as well as other options available with local families. More details will be available upon your acceptance into the program

Our museum collection includes over 150 taxidermy fishes, birds and mammals, most of which are found in Wisconsin. We also have one of the largest collections of Wisconsin mammalian skulls and growing collections of insects, seashells and rocks.

We have a large collection of education materials, activities and games for children. These include natural science and STEM materials that we use for groups that come regularly to the Nature Center.

Our live animals include a wide variety of small critters and include guinea pigs, rabbits, invertebrates (tarantula, hissing cockroaches) and many species of reptiles. We currently have about 100 turtles of almost 50 different species! Nearly all of our animals have been rescued, adopted or are being fostered. Many are special needs and require advanced care.

WINTER, SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Winter is a small, rural community with a year round residency total of about 325 people. The Village is home to just one of three school districts in the county and the Winter School District includes 4K-12 education in one building. The Village also is home to a Cooperative grocery store, gas station, a couple of restaurants, a public library and the Sawyer County Gazette newspaper. The Chippewa Valley Bank is located here and 2 ATMs are available: one at the store and one at the gas station.

Within a half an hour drive is Park Falls, Hayward and Ladysmith. These larger towns include more restaurants, larger grocery stores and department stores.

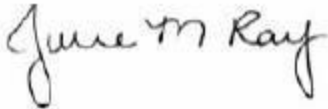
Many state and national parks and forests are a short distance from Winter, providing excellent hiking, kayaking and exploring opportunities for days off. Some of particular interest include Copper Falls State Park, Flambeau State Forest, Chequamegon National Forest and Ojibwa Park.

Airports close to Sawyer County include: Eau Claire (flights from O'Hare Chicago only), Duluth (MN) and Minneapolis (MN). Transportation can be arranged from the airport to Project Northwoods if needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are selected to participate in the internship program, you will receive a handbook prior to your visit that includes more information about the program, the area and what you should pack. We also are always available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact us projectnorthwoodswi@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie M. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Julie M. Ray
Founder and Director
Project Northwoods