

TITLE: 2023 Birding Intern
PAY: \$17.00 per hour
STATUS: Non-exempt, full-time
DURATION: May 16 (could start as early as March 16) through September 15
ORGANIZATION: Mono Lake Committee
LOCATION: Lee Vining, California
SUPERVISED BY: Education Director



Description:

The Mono Lake Committee is a 16,000 member non-profit citizens' group dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Mono Basin ecosystem; educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use; and promoting cooperative solutions that meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.

Seasonal staff bring fresh energy, perspective, and diverse knowledge to our organization. Each year we provide all seasonal staff with comprehensive training to develop a thorough understanding of the Mono Basin and the Mono Lake Committee in order to be able to fulfill their intern duties.

The Birding Intern position is similar to the Mono Lake Intern position with a special emphasis on leading interpretive bird walks, researching birds and birding issues, assisting with ongoing research projects, and assisting with the annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. As the Birding Intern, you will work closely with other Mono Lake Interns who assist with Mono Lake Committee interpretive education programs, staff the busy Information Center & Bookstore, and work in the Mono Lake Committee office to help carry out efficient work in the areas of education, communication, policy, membership, and overall operations. Your duties are typically divided among 50% time in the field leading programs and assisting with local bird research, 35% staffing the Information Center & Bookstore, and 15% working in the office. This position is ideal for bird enthusiasts wanting to further their interpretive, communication, and guiding skills and gain experience in environmental non-profit work.

The Mono Lake Committee values a diverse, inclusive, and equitable workplace where all employees and volunteers feel respected and appreciated. We are committed to a nondiscriminatory approach and provide equal opportunity for employment and advancement in all of our departments.

In this role you will:

- Lead weekly morning bird walks along the northwest shore of Mono Lake and Lundy Canyon.
- Provide interpretive environmental education programs at Mono Lake, including guided canoe tours on Mono Lake and walking tours of the South Tufa area.
- Staff the Information Center & Bookstore counter, provide information, answer visitors' questions, and sign up interested visitors to be members of the Mono Lake Committee. Duties on the front counter also include handling retail sales, stocking shelves, and keeping up store appearance.
- Answer phones; fulfill information requests via phone, mail, and email; and assist with office and field tasks needed to support operations and mission.
- Assist with bird research on Mono Lake as job schedule allows.
- Research and develop materials and programs designed to promote birding-related recreation in the Mono Basin.
- Assist with the annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua.
- Other duties as assigned based on skills, interest, initiative, and organization needs.

Qualifications:

- Basic knowledge of birds and field identification through experience and/or education.
- Strong communications skills, both written and verbal.

- Strong work ethic and a positive and collaborative attitude.
- Desire to learn more about how a successful non-profit operates.
- Ability to be flexible under a changing schedule.
- Commitment to following the Committee's COVID-19 protocol, which includes being vaccinated.
- A valid driver's license and good driving record are required (contact us with any questions).
- Must pass a background check to confirm you do not have any criminal violations relevant to working with youth.

Benefits:

- Comprehensive training on Mono Basin ecology, California water policy, environmental interpretation, retail operations, canoe safety, and more.
- Paid time off for observed holidays that occur during employment.
- Mileage is paid for all job-related travel from place of work in personal vehicle.
- Affordable shared housing within walking distance of the office in Lee Vining.
- Employee discount on merchandise in the Information Center & Bookstore.

Additional information:

The Mono Basin is composed of sagebrush steppe, pinyon-juniper, and Jeffrey pine forest plant communities, 46,000 acres of Mono Lake, numerous 12,000+ foot Sierra peaks, and plug-dome volcanoes. The Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore is in the town of Lee Vining (pop. 400, elev. 6,780'), on the eastern edge of Yosemite National Park near Mono Lake. The town is located adjacent to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, and the Ansel Adams and Hoover wilderness areas. Lee Vining is situated along Highway 395, 30 miles north of Mammoth Lakes, California and 110 miles south of Carson City, Nevada.

The Birding Intern position is temporary, lasting from four to six months. The Birding Intern works 40 hours per week with two consecutive days off. Shared housing is available through the Committee at \$300/month (sorry, no pets).

Application process:

If you meet more than 75% of the qualifications of this description, we support your application.

Applications will be accepted starting January 15, 2023. To apply, send a cover letter and resume via email to Rose Nelson, Education Director, at rose@monolake.org. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. For more information, contact Rose at (760) 647-6386 x113 or go to monolake.org/jobs.