

Who we are:

The Department of Environment and Conservation exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment.

Our Department is committed to providing a cleaner, safer environment that goes hand in hand with economic prosperity and increased quality of life in Tennessee. We deliver on our mission through managing regulatory programs that maintain standards for air, water and soil quality while providing assistance to businesses and communities in areas ranging from recreation to waste management. We manage the state park system and programs to inventory, interpret and protect Tennessee's rich natural, historical, and archaeological heritage.

About the Division of Water Resources (DWR):

The Division of Water Resources is responsible for managing, protecting, and enhancing the quality of the state's water resources through voluntary, regulatory, and educational programs. The Division provides regulatory oversight for public drinking water systems and supplies, issues permits for discharges, alterations, and activities protective of Tennessee's water resources. DWR monitors and models the health of Tennessee's water resources and provides outreach and education in and about Tennessee's watersheds.



Internship Division of Water Resources – Mining Unit Knoxville Environmental Field Office

Overview

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), is excited to offer an outstanding opportunity for college students to have an internship with our Division of Water Resources – Mining Unit in our Knoxville Environmental Field Office. Students will gain an understanding of how our agency works to protect and improve water quality in Tennessee. Internship candidates must be currently enrolled in a college or university focusing on a degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, or Civil/Environmental Engineering; other related fields will be considered. Candidates must receive college credit for the internship experience.

Students will learn about inspecting regulated facilities, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, plugging abandoned oil & gas wells, conducting chemical and biological monitoring of local rivers/streams, maintaining field equipment, and how our team provides technical assistance to protect or improve water resources. Field work includes walking in uneven, muddy, and steep terrain during wet, dry, hot, and cold climatic conditions, flowing water of varying depth and velocity, and may include encounters with environmental hazards (poison ivy, insects, snakes, etc.). It will be a lot of fun and exercise!

Please note that TDEC will observe appropriate Covid-19 guidelines during this internship.

General Responsibilities

- Accompany staff during inspections of mining facilities, oil & gas operations, and mine reclamation projects.
- Assist with collection of water samples from rivers/streams.
- Collect in-stream biological samples (aquatic macroinvertebrates) and habitat assessments.
- Document inspection findings and field parameters.
- Learn how field equipment is calibrated and cleaned.

To be considered for this unpaid internship, students need to submit their resume, cover letter, and information outlining college credit requirements to Deanna.Jones@tn.gov. Additional information regarding TDEC's internship requirements are highlighted on TDEC's website:

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/about-tdec/employment-and-internships.html>

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.