



## **INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION – Bacteria Analytical Lab Assistant**

The Lab Assistant position is a part-time, seasonal opportunity with the Southwest Conservation District, a 501(c3) environmental non-profit organization based in Hamden, Connecticut. Our organization is focused on providing technical assistance, project guidance and educational materials on natural resources conservation, water quality and soil health issues. Our clients are agricultural cooperators, private landowners, and municipalities across Southwestern Connecticut.

The successful applicant for this position will work in our lab space in Hamden to process water samples for both e.coli and enterococci bacteria levels. Additional work will occur during site visits to collect water quality samples for analysis in the lab space. These sampling efforts will be in tandem with staff from SWCD to ensure sampling and safety protocols are followed. Training will be provided to the intern via SWCD staff at the initiation of the position.

### Specific tasks will include:

- ❖ Participate in training sessions with SWCD staff at the lab and in field sampling trips
- ❖ Assist with processing water quality samples in the lab for bacteria analysis
- ❖ Attend sampling trips with staff to waterbodies in southcentral Connecticut to collect samples and complete data sheets
- ❖ Assist with tracking inventory of consumables in the lab and preparing re-orders
- ❖ Assist partner organizations with learning how to utilize lab space with sterile technique
- ❖ Assist with recording of results in XLS forms and online data entry

### Expected Qualifications:

- ❖ Upper-level undergraduate student majoring in Sciences or graduate level student with Bachelor of Science
- ❖ Experience working in a lab setting, in particular pipetting and mixing reagents
- ❖ Ability to follow lab procedures to match QAPP protocols to generate useful water quality data

- ❖ An interest in water quality and learning more about protecting natural resources

Compensation:

- ❖ This is a part – time position with flexible hours that will be based on volume of samples to process
- ❖ Sampling season will run from May through September 2023
- ❖ A stipend will be available for the successful intern in the \$3000 to \$5000 range for the season
- ❖ Mileage for sampling trips may also be compensated

Application Procedure:

- ❖ Please send cover letter and resume to Chris Sullivan, Executive Director, Southwest Conservation District via email at [SWCD@Conservect.org](mailto:SWCD@Conservect.org)
- ❖ Applications will be accepted and reviewed until May 1, 2023 or a successful intern is selected