

# 2006 SUMMER WILDLIFE REHABILITATION INTERNSHIP

Since 1989, W.E.R.C. has offered this innovative mentoring program for a college student. The goal of this internship is to provide intense and extensive hands-on training in the field of wildlife rehabilitation, animal identification and behavior, and developing personal skills that will enhance the intern's career. The main focus of the intern's responsibilities will be the care of baby songbirds and working with volunteers.

W.E.R.C. is a non-profit organization licensed by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and is accredited by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. W.E.R.C. admits approximately 300 patients a year, primarily avian species from hummingbirds to vultures and occasional mammals and reptiles such as a bobcat or gopher snake. During the summer months, most of the animals admitted for care are baby songbirds. W.E.R.C. also has ten non-releasable animals used for educational purposes: a king snake, gopher snake, great horned owl, screech owl, red-tailed hawk, merlin, pygmy owl, peregrine falcon, two opossums and a gopher.

W.E.R.C. is located on private property in the unincorporated area of Morgan Hill, California, and is approximately five miles from town with no public transportation available. The facility is situated on one acre of oak woodland habitat. A small treatment clinic and fourteen animal enclosures are on-site.

## **DUTIES:**

- Wildlife Rehabilitation/Animal Care - Admit, examine, and care for patients; identify species, research animal behavior, characteristics, and natural habitat; administer medication; prepare diets; feed animals; maintain site and enclosures; transport animals to veterinarian; participate in animal rescues/releases; other duties as assigned.
- Public Relations - Respond to phone inquiries and written requests for information; provide initial contact to citizens bringing in wildlife patients; assist with W.E.R.C. community events and annual fundraiser; coordinate W.E.R.C.'s Morgan Hill's 4th of July Parade float; help with volunteer orientation/recognition.
- Record keeping - Prepare federal and state -mandated records concerning admission, care, and release of wildlife; maintain patient medical records.
- Volunteers - Assist with scheduling, training, and supervision of volunteers participating in wildlife rehabilitation, animal handling, and public relations programs.

The intern may also receive advanced training in animal and raptor handling, rehabilitative physical therapy, parasitic diagnosis, nutritional requirements, etc.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A minimum of two years of college-level related coursework, and demonstrated involvement in natural science, biology, wildlife management, zoology, or related fields.
- Must be able to communicate well with the public both orally and in writing; be a quick learner; have initiative, enthusiasm, and stamina. Also must be reliable, able to multi-task, and work under pressure, both independently and as part of a team.
- Must be able to work with people 16 to 65+ years of age with varying personalities, backgrounds, and skill levels.

- Must have previous experience working with animals and/or wildlife.
- Must abide by the W.E.R.C. euthanasia policy and handle all aspects of death.
- Must be in good health. The site is tiered on a hillside, with numerous stairs at varying levels, and is not handicap-accessible.
- Applicants should have no animal-related allergies.
- Must have a current tetanus shot.
- Must have a car, valid driver's license, and vehicle insurance.
- Applicants must live in local area.

**SUPERVISION:** The intern will be trained by the Executive Director and Programs Coordinator in various areas of wildlife rehabilitation and administration, and closely supervised until such time that the supervisor(s) and intern feel confident in the intern's abilities to assume a position of authority.

**HOURS PER DAY:** 8

**HOURS PER WEEK:** 40

**DAYS PER WEEK:** 5 (days off during the week)

**SCHOLARSHIP:** \$1200.00

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

Position opened until filled or cancelled. Contact W.E.R.C. for status of position before submitting your application package.

Application package to include:

- Resume - Must include career goals, list of related coursework, and paid/unpaid work experience.
- Two letters of recommendation - one from a teacher and one from an employer/supervisor (paid or unpaid).
- Three references (name, address, phone number) - one work-related and two personal.
- Indicate three preferred interview dates and times.

**ALL INTERVIEWS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON, ON-SITE IN MORGAN HILL, CA (NO EXCEPTIONS). All costs associated with the in-person interview are the interviewee's responsibility.**

**DIRECT INQUIRIES AND APPLICATION PACKETS TO:**

W.E.R.C.  
 ATTN.: SUE HOWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 P. O. BOX 1105  
 MORGAN HILL, CA 95038-1105

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 E-mail: werc@werc-ca.org