**ANCHORAGE FISHING INTERN**

**Tentative Dates of Program:** ~June 1 through August 15 (flexible/COVID-19 dependent)

400 hours/10 weeks @~$18/hr

**BACKGROUND:** the This program helps urban Anchorage youth and their caregivers develop safe fishing skills near home. Major program components include fishing techniques, outdoor safety, and cooking the catch. The program strategy centers on repeat interactions within and across years; building competence and competence; fun, food, and comradery, and staff consistency. We start with simple lake fishing techniques using closed reels and bobbers and as the summer program progresses we transition to river fishing in current for wild trout and salmon using larger open reels and rods. We focus on breaking down barriers to participation including helping participants overcome fear of outdoor situations by increasing competency through hands-on demonstrations and repetitive training in classroom and outdoor settings. Safety training includes cold-water safety, fording rivers, proper life jacket use, basic first aid, orienteering, filing a float plan, and being safe around wildlife.

**Roles:**

USFWS provides a team of staff for program oversight. In 2023 this will include Katrina Liebich (program coordinator/intern supervisor), Marye Martin (lead SCA Fishing Intern), and Kris Pacheco (FWS safety coordinator). USFWS provides the gear (fishing equipment, waders, cooking equipment), as well as a government vehicle to transport USFWS staff and gear.

Alaska Geographic funds the internship and is the fiscal agent. There will be opportunities to network with Alaska Geographic staff and support their other outdoor programs throughout the duration of the internship.

The urban fishing intern position includes the following tasks:

* Working as the junior member on a team that leads fishing excursions/instruction within Anchorage and surrounding areas.
* Prepping gear (re-rigging/untangling lines, cleaning equipment)
* Assisting with cold-water and river crossing instructional sessions with fishing participants (pool, local rivers)
* Youth mentorship

**Program target audience – diverse Anchorage youth**

* Boys and Girls Clubs, Refugee Assistance Program, and other youth hubs in and around Anchorage

**What’s provided:**

* Training (including how to use all of the fishing equipment/techniques and bear safety)
* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service vehicle for work-related activities (transporting fishing gear, transportation to and from the Anchorage Field Office)

**What’s not provided:**

* Housing (but we can help you find housing options)
* A vehicle for personal use

**Developmental opportunities:**

* Develop leadership skills and collaborative networks
* Demonstrate independence
* Practice critical thinking and problem solving
* Hone oral presentation skills with a variety of audiences

**What’s required**

* An passion for working with youth and the outdoors
* Background check
* Signed USFWS volunteer agreement to drive government vehicle

**COVID-19 contingencies:**

* We are following the COVID-19 situation closely including local, state and federal health guidelines. The dates, duration, and scope of the internship could be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will communicate closely with the selected intern in the months and weeks leading up to the start date.

**Important dates:** We plan to schedule interviews prior to March 2023. Please send a resume and cover letter to Katrina\_Liebich@fws.gov by or before February 1, 2023.