AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 049 / Haines, Alaska 99827

Tel: 907-766-3094 / E-mail: info@baldeagles.org

2012 Student Internship Program

The American Bald Eagle Foundation (ABEF) operates a student internship program at its natural history museum and raptor center in Haines, Alaska. This program annually hosts between three and five student interns from universities throughout the United States. The purpose of the program is to provide an educational, conservation oriented experience to undergraduate students majoring in an earth science or natural history related field. The program also assists the ABEF in providing much needed manpower during the most active period of the year.

- Minimum criteria for program entrance are listed below:
- Student applicants must have completed their Freshman year
- Applicants must be students enrolled at an accredited college or university and have at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- Applicants must have a major in an earth science or natural history related field, i.e. biology, ecology, chemistry, biochemistry, animal husbandry, etc.
- Applicants must submit an application package prior to the application deadline of March 1st but no earlier than December 1st 2011 for the following internship year
- Applicants must be able to come to Alaska no later than May 15th and remain in Alaska during a period of internship May-Sept.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen or Exchange Student
- Applicants must have no criminal convictions or pending court cases involving moral turpitude, violence, or DUI
- Applicants must submit a brief BIO of themselves (not more than 2 pages) along with a 2 x 3 inch photograph

There may be additional criteria for specific internship projects; however, those criteria will be discussed with those applicants who reach the final selection round prior to final appointment of internship positions. Successful applicants will be sent a written agreement prior to their arrival in Haines which must be reviewed, signed, and returned before their internship begins. Students selected to serve an internship will be provided with complimentary, apartment style housing and a weekly food stipend of $190. Housing includes private living and bathroom facilities, communal washer & dryer facilities, and communal cooking facilities. The ABEF will reimburse intern travel expenses up to a maximum of $1,000. Interns will receive 50% of their travel expenses upon successful completion of their first 30 days. The remaining 50% will be reimbursed upon successful completion of 60 days. Damage and cleaning deposit of $100 will be required from each intern prior to assignment of living facilities. Upon completion of internship the living facilities will be inspected for damage and cleanliness. If facilities are undamaged and cleaned properly, the $100 deposit will be returned to the student prior to their departure from Haines.

Haines, Alaska is a small community of approximately 1,400 with most community centers and businesses within 1/2 mile of the ABEF. Therefore, most can be reached easily by walking or cycling. Since Haines is only 40 miles from the Canadian border many interns choose to travel into Canada to sight-see. Should you choose to travel into Canada and back, a current U.S. Passport is required.

The ABEF wishes all applicants the very best of luck in being selected for this exciting and special program.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR STUDENT INTERNS

The ABEF internship program was established in 2000 and has trained 31 interns since its inaugural year. ABEF interns have established a prestigious record during those years and have gone on to successful careers in education, research, and employment. The ABEF takes great pride in its internship program and its interns. Those who work hard and are successful at being selected into the program can expect excellent prospects for their future regardless of their chosen endeavor. Upon approval of the Director of Operations and the Raptor Curator, some interns may be offered the opportunity to extend their internship through the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival in November. The festival allows one to observe firsthand the largest gathering of bald eagles on earth---up to 4,000 bald eagles along a 4 mile stretch of the Chilkat river. The ABEF expects to select Three (3) interns for the 2012 season. Students selected for the ABEF internship program will be expected to successfully complete the following:

- Make interpretive natural history presentations regarding the flora and fauna of the Chilkat Valley specifically and Alaska in general.
- Spend five(5) days working with the Takshanuk Watershed Council in the areas of water conservation and wildlife habitat preservation
- Spend five(5) days working with the Alaska Dept. of Parks & Recreation in areas designated by the Chief Parks Ranger
- Research and publish a paper about the fauna of the Chilkat Valley that will be used in ABEF education and research programs
- Assist in fish and avian counts as needed in the Chilkat and Chilkoot Valley
- Make research database entries as needed
- Work at least 32 hours per week in the museum performing assorted duties such as admissions, gift shop sales, specimen cleaning & preservation, making presentations, filing, data entry, and general house-keeping, etc. These duties will be reduced during the period the intern works with Parks & Recreation and the Watershed Council
- Comply with professional behavior and dress standards of the ABEF at all times
- Work in the museum a minimum of two (2) Sundays per month during the peak summer season from June 1st-September 14th
- Assist in the care and handling of live raptors as well as give educational programs with ABEF resident raptors in the ABEF raptor program

All student interns will be supervised by and report directly to the ABEF Director of Operations for all duties except raptor programs. Raptor care, handling, and programs will be supervised by the ABEF Raptor Curator.

Interns will receive approximately two weeks of training initially which will allow them to give natural history interpretive presentations to museum visitors. After the initial two week training period, and prior to any public presentations, each intern will be evaluated on their ability to successfully give a presentation. If an intern fails to successfully complete this evaluation he or she will be given one additional week of remedial training to accomplish the goal. If an intern fails to successfully complete their evaluation a second time, the intern will be dismissed at their own expense and replaced by the top candidate on the standby list.