

Apprenticeship Title:	Urban Wildlife Monitoring Research and Conservation Education
Duration:	10 weeks (approximately May – August, 2019)
Compensation:	\$4,000 stipend and job-related travel reimbursement
Minimum age:	18
Minimum requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be currently enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university in a course of study relevant to the mission of Extension. • Must have completed sophomore year prior to the start of the program. Must NOT be eligible to graduate prior to December 2019. • Must possess a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale at the time of application (exceptions will be considered with substantial justification). • Must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. • Must have a valid driver’s license and reliable personal vehicle. • Must be willing to travel (regionally and possibly internationally) and work flexible hours. In other words, this position requires travel connected with official duties, including attendance at night and weekend meetings, conferences, etc. (Travel reimbursement will be provided.)
Preferred qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with or willingness to learn how to operate and maintain camera traps and associated software. • Able to collect accurate data and enter into Microsoft Access and Excel. • Experience with or willingness to learn how to use image management platforms (Google Drive and Zooniverse). • Experience with or willingness to learn how to use basic functions of ArcGIS or QGIS software. • Basic knowledge and field identification skills (sight, tracks, scat, and other sign) of southeastern mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles. • Basic orienteering, navigation, and GPS skills by vehicle and foot. • Comfortable and interested in working in a diverse rural-urban landscape including in and around commercial buildings, industrial areas, city parks, golf courses, and suburban and rural properties. • Good organization and planning skills and ability to demonstrate effective project coordination, facilitation, and implementation based on past work or school experiences. • Experience with or willingness to learn how to informally and formally present scientific information to the public. • Experience with or willingness to learn how to work with and effectively and build relationships with others including segments of the general public like adult volunteers, youth, and other stakeholders. • Excellent written and interpersonal skills, a strong work ethic, and a sincere interest in conservation education and working with diverse clientele and colleagues.

<p>Physical requirements:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good physical condition and willing to work in typical southeastern US field conditions, including high temperatures and humidity and biting insects (proper field work safeguards will be implemented including using insect repellent and wearing appropriate protective field clothing). • Ability to lift and carry heavy objects (up to 40 pounds) moderate distances via cases or in a backpack.
<p>Specific Apprenticeship Description:</p>	<p>This apprenticeship opportunity will provide an integrated experience for the apprentice in the fields of urban wildlife management and conservation education. The apprentice will work with the mentor to establish the pilot study of a potential future long-term urban wildlife monitoring program in Jackson, MS through a partnership with the Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN - Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL). The primary goal being to create a real-time database on the urban wildlife populations in the Jackson metro region to develop better informed wildlife management and conservation education programs.</p> <p>Under the guidance of the mentor the specific activities of the apprenticeship will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a pilot study involving a camera trap survey using protocols set forth in the international UWIN program. Research activities will include identifying camera sites in conjunction with the mentor, UWIN staff, local partners, and private landowners. Other tasks will include deploying and managing the cameras during the field season, data collection and management, and basic analysis of the imagery. • Assisting the mentor in conducting the 2019 Central MS Master Naturalist Course (9 week course) including developing a hands-on camera survey training workshop for Master Naturalist Volunteer Program (an adult citizen science program). • Shadowing the mentor at civic group meetings, field days, site visits, and client consultations, and the opportunity to potentially obtain Project Wild, Project Wet, and other conservation education program certifications.
<p>Other Information:</p>	<p>Housing is not provided. However, program administrators may be able to assist you in finding an affordable place to live.</p> <p>For specific questions about this apprenticeship opportunity, contact:</p> <p>Dr. Adam Rohnke Central MS Research & Extension Center Raymond, MS adam.rohnke@msstate.edu 601-857-2284</p>
<p>Application Process:</p>	<p>Online application (http://extension.msstate.edu/apprentice) and supplemental documentation due by 11:59 PM on February 28, 2019.</p>