

Apprenticeship Title:	Coastal and Marine Extension and Research
Duration:	12 weeks (approximately May – August, 2017 – <i>these dates are flexible based on applicant's home university's summer semester start and end dates</i>)
Compensation:	\$500/week plus benefits and travel allowance for job-related travel
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. Preference will be given to students majoring in marine biology, biological sciences, environmental sciences, or other relevant course of study. • Must have completed at least sophomore year prior to the start of the program. • 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. • 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.) • Student must have a basic understanding of ecology and be proficient in Microsoft office.
Preferred qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have experience working with volunteers and youth. • Able to work effectively and build relationships with others. • Have good organization and planning skills and be able to demonstrate effective project coordination, facilitation, and implementation based on past work or school experiences. • Possess deductive reasoning skills and be able to analyze and synthesize information. • Have a personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues. • Have experience with GIS. • Have an understanding of marine or estuarine ecology.
Physical requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a strong swimmer. • Must be able to work in harsh environments, such as coastal wetlands and remote beaches, with no shade. • Must be able to carry at least 20lbs through harsh environments. • Must be able to perform physical labor for 8+ hours in a day.
Specific Apprenticeship Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Dr. Sparks' team to perform extension and research focused on the coastal environment. • Train volunteer groups to conduct marine debris monitoring, assist with habitat (marsh and/or oyster) restoration, assist with living shoreline evaluations, assist

	<p>with living shoreline focused workshops for homeowners, assist with organizing Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, and assist with organizing the Mississippi Master Naturalist Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with representatives from NOAA Marine Debris Program, MS Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Estuarine Education Center, Harrison County Beautification Commission, MS Marine Debris Task Force, MS Master Naturalist Program, MS/AL Sea Grant, Mobile Baykeeper, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, The Nature Conservancy, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and several more! • Help develop products related to the work outlined above. These products may include a marine debris distribution map for the Gulf of Mexico, training outlines for marine debris monitoring, a training outline for living shoreline workshops, a MS Coastal Cleanup handbook, a poster to be presented at a conference, and extension publications.
<p>General Apprenticeship Description:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with an MSU Extension faculty specialist/mentor and other Extension personnel to coordinate research and implement related outreach program events and activities. • Maintains an ongoing, professional relationship with your assigned faculty mentor. • Participates in meetings where local issues are identified and prioritized, and program results and plans are discussed. • Assists in preparations for planned events and activities by gathering information, assembling materials, contacting participants, and soliciting support from external sources. As appropriate, conducts the teaching, training or other program presentations. • In some cases, the apprentice may identify and develop a value-added process, program, or training tool that may be implemented within the hosting unit's current operations. • Maintains a reflection journal outlining apprenticeship experiences. Completes and submits journal at the conclusion of the apprenticeship. • Will be expected to develop and present a poster or presentation at an industry-related conference or professional meeting identified by the Extension faculty specialist.
<p>Other Information:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing is not provided. However, program administrators may be able to assist you in finding an affordable place to live. • Likely will attend and present at the 2018 Mississippi Water Resources (or similar) conference in the spring.
<p>Apprenticeship Faculty Mentor:</p>	<p>Dr. Eric Sparks Assistant Extension Professor of Estuarine and Wetland Ecology 1815 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532 228-546-1025 eric.sparks@msstate.edu</p>

Application Process:

[Online application](#) and supplemental documentation due by **11:59 PM on February 28, 2017**. Supplemental documentation for this apprenticeship opportunity includes:

- Short Essay
- Current Resume
- Unofficial Transcripts
- Two Letters of Recommendation (submitted to mdd269@msstate.edu by Feb 28th)