



Shorebird Monitor Intern (Volunteer)

One Position Available

Location: Goosewing Beach Preserve, Little Compton, RI and other nearby sites

Dates Available: May through August

Description: The Shorebird Monitor Intern will assist The Nature Conservancy staff in monitoring and protection of shorebirds (piping plovers and least terns) at sites in Little Compton, Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. The volunteer intern will play an important role in the recovery of a federally threatened species. He/she will have the opportunity to work closely with conservation professionals and learn about the ecology, conservation values and threats of a fragile beach, dune, and coastal pond ecosystem.

Duties:

- Patrolling the beach and communicating with beachgoers about endangered species conservation, including helping to educate the public on the “no dogs” policy.
- Monitoring fenced areas for visitor/recreational use and breeding bird activity.
- Completing data forms on visitor use and interactions and plover and tern nesting information.
- Record numbers and location of breeding pairs, nests, eggs, hatchlings and fledglings, noting the timing of all events. Help document nest and chick losses.
- Assisting with installation or removal of fencing to protect nesting territories and nests, modify fencing periodically as beach situations change, and help maintain the condition of fencing.
- Assist Conservancy staff with nature programs, events and beach walks.

Training: Conservancy staff will provide training on endangered species management, plover /tern natural history, data collection, and beach visitor education.

Contact:

Cheryl Wiitala, Preserves Manager
The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island
159 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906
401-331-7110 ext. 25
cwiitala@tnc.org