

Blooming Botanist Internship 2023

Kankakee Torrent Chapter, Illinois Native Plant Society

Purpose:

Provide grant money to a qualified student to pursue initial field training in studying the local flora.

Justification:

All too many students and their families struggle to afford higher education. In order to pay for college, students and their families must be continuously working odd jobs. Working interferes with a student's ability to volunteer on various flora field studies being conducted during the growing season. These field experiences are valuable for students aspiring to become the next generation of local botanists or plant scientists. Providing a sizable grant(s) from the Kankakee Torrent Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society will allow a student(s) the ability to earn money and learn about the local flora fulfilling both their academic and career goals. This paid internship is in keeping with the mission of the Illinois Native Plant Society by investing in the future.

Grant:

Blooming Botanist Internship grant of \$1,200 for a 10-week session (Mid-May to Mid-August). Intern is expected to work 10 hours per week.

Job Description:

- Successful intern will commit to the time duration of the internship grant and sign an agreement and liability and safety waivers.
- Intern will be required to work on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Vegetation Monitoring Team and the Midewin's Chicago Botanical Garden Plants of Concern Project. Both of these projects will introduce the student intern to the scientific techniques of monitoring the local flora. During this time the intern will be learning the names, natural history and ecological roles of the local flora.
- Intern will participate on 3-5 restoration work days with the Forest Preserved District of Will County.

- Successfully complete the Basic Plant ID class (guest \$23 as of January 2023) offered by the Morton Arboretum or its equivalent to be paid for by the Kankakee Torrent Chapter.
- Keep, maintain and submit a daily journal about the daily experiences participating on the various field studies and work being conducted.
- Intern will have to provide their own transportation and cover all related costs.
- Intern will be required to be properly dressed for field work. Standard field attire includes: sturdy durable shoes/boots, have a pair of knee high rubber boots, long pants and long sleeve shirt made of light weight durable fabric and wide-brimmed hat. Intern should also carry a light weight day pack to carry at least one quart of water, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- The Kankakee Torrent Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society will provide a copy of Robert H. Molhenbrock's, *Vascular Flora of Illinois* and a 10x field lens.
- Intern will keep, maintain and submit a log of their attendance and professional participation in the required activities described in this job description. The log sheet must be signed by the official supervisors of the events/activities.
- Interns must demonstrate consistent participation and progress during the time period of the internship. Grant money will be released incrementally during this time consistent with regular pay periods.

Application Process:

High school and college students would complete an application (see below) consisting of a standard official form with contact and background information and 3 references. Prepare and submit a 500-word essay about your interest in local plants and an explanation of how the award money would help you, the applicant, meet your academic and career goals.

Send completed application form and supporting materials as scanned documents to Andy Neill, co-chair of the selection committee: ajneill63@gmail.com

Closing date: **Friday, 21 April, 2023**

Eligibility:

Student applicants must be either a junior or senior in high school or in their first two years of college. Student applicants must live within the region served by the Kankakee Torrent chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society. Basic, entry level membership in the chapter is required during the year of the grant.

BLOOMING BOTANIST INTERNSHIP GRANT APPLICATION 2023

Kankakee Torrent Chapter - Illinois Native Plant Society

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact person's name: _____

Contact person's phone number: _____

REFERENCES (provide 3)

Reference Name (1): _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Reference person's Contact Phone: _____

Reference person's e-mail: _____

Reference Name (2): _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Reference person's Contact Phone: _____

Reference person's e-mail: _____

Reference Name (1): _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Reference person's Contact Phone: _____

Reference person's e-mail: _____

Send scanned document files to Andy Neill, co-chair of the selection committee:

ajneill63@gmail.com