



LaGrange County Strategic Water Quality Monitoring Program Summer internship & research experience for undergraduate student

Where: LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District

What: Water Quality Monitoring of 15 streams throughout LaGrange County

When: May/June 2024 – September 2024

Who: We are looking for ONE motivated student intern – read on for more details!

Position description:

Are you a current college student or recent graduate who is interested in gaining research experience in the fields of environmental science, public health, and aquatic ecology? Do you enjoy being outside and exploring the local water resources of LaGrange County? If so, read on and consider applying!

The LaGrange County Strategic Water Monitoring Program is seeking one motivated student intern to conduct weekly water monitoring as part of a new collaborative initiative between the LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District, LaGrange County Health Department, Office of the Surveyor, and the St. Joseph River Basin Commission to characterize water quality trends throughout the spring, summer, and fall in LaGrange County. The intern will serve through the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) AmeriCorps program, with the St. Joseph River Basin Commission's aquatic ecologist Dr. Kate Barrett as the AmeriCorps member (intern) supervisor. All work will occur in LaGrange County and the intern will be provided office space at the LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District office in LaGrange. The intern will work closely with the LaGrange County Soil & Water Conservation District to complete the water quality monitoring work.

The intern will be responsible for weekly visits to 15 monitoring sites located throughout LaGrange County for 20 consecutive weeks. Site visits include collecting in-situ water quality measurements using a portable water quality meter as well as collecting water samples that will be analyzed for caffeine, *E. coli*, and Total Suspended Solids by contracting labs and the biology lab at Par-Gil Nature Center. Intern will record water quality data and relevant habitat features during each site visit and will be responsible for submitting field data into a database. Prior to the start of the sampling season, the intern will receive on-site field training on standard operating procedures.

This is a seasonal position that requires an intern to be in the field for up to 3 days a week for 20 weeks. Weekly time commitment is anticipated to be 15 – 20 hours in the field and ~5 – 10 hours of sample processing and analysis. **Total hours per week are expected to be between 20 and 30 hours.**

Interested applicants should submit current CV/resume and one-page letter of interest to Kate Barrett, St. Joseph River Basin Commission Aquatic Ecologist at kbarrett@macog.com.