

# Advocacy Intern Summer 2019



*The St. Johns Riverkeeper mission is to be an independent voice that defends, advocates, and activates others to protect and restore the St. Johns River. We are a privately-funded, independent and trusted voice for the St. Johns River and the public to whom it belongs.*

**Summary:** St. Johns Riverkeeper has a strong advocacy program which relies on technical expertise and scientific data to fuel our policies and position statements. The Advocacy Intern is a person with a passion to research and answer questions that help advance our advocacy work. This paid position is one semester long in the spring, summer and fall. The right candidate will be able to dedicate 10-25 hours a week to this position, with one required day in the office each week. We are flexible during exams and holiday breaks.

## Potential Research Areas:

- Collect an inventory of toxic waste sites within the St. Johns River watershed. Utilize mapping tools to communicate the location, size, and level of contamination with staff once collected.
- Research Onsite Wastewater Treatment Facilities (septic tanks). Specifically:
  - Identify rules for permitting new septic tanks and for requiring homeowners to connect to new sewer lines and compare rules between various counties within the watershed.
  - Identify enforcement tools being utilized in various watershed counties to remove or repair failing and abandoned septic tanks.
  - Collect statistics within the watershed for septic tanks. Specifically, new approved permits, permitted, failing, and abandoned. Attempt watershed wide data reporting.
  - Look at inspection programs from various counties to compare and contrast.
- Analyze and review research conducted by the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants to help understand the impacts of current aquatic invasive spraying methods and best practices for native plants, waterways, and wildlife.
- Research and review incoming Consumptive Use Permits in order to track, analyze, and develop techniques to stay on top of potential major water grabs that require focused advocacy attention.
- Help develop graphics and fact sheets utilizing tools that show sea level rise impacts to our region.
- Work with experts in the field of tides and currents by helping to digitizing historic St. Johns River tide records from the 1890's and beyond. Communicate directly with the scientists looking to better understand trends and data by inputting found data into necessary formats.
- Develop a map of pollution pond sources.
- Create graphs and charts that visualize wetland loss in Duval County and the watershed over the last 5 years.
- Work with the St. Johns Riverkeeper and Advocacy Director to execute the goals and commitments of this position.

- At times, attend, participate in, and directly connect with agency staff, technical meetings, or advocacy events where your skills are needed to benefit St. Johns Riverkeeper.

#### **Desired Skills & Personal Characteristics:**

- ✓ Commitment to the St Johns River, St Johns Riverkeeper, its mission & goals.
- ✓ Knowledge of issues, threats and concerns facing the St. Johns River.
- ✓ Recommended course work varies by the task. The right candidate may have completed coursework in GIS, chemistry, environmental science, history, or various disciplines in order to accomplish the goals of the position. Communicating the education you have to complete the various research areas is recommended. A passion for the work, and skills to do the job is what will be considered.
- ✓ Oral and written communication & interpersonal skills and proficient computer skills.
- ✓ Ability to efficiently & effectively organize time, work independently and manage multiple tasks.

#### **Benefits and Position Requirements**

- The hours are flexible, depending on your schedule. We ask for a minimum of 10 hours a week including one day (5 hours) in the office in order to apply. The maximum is 25 hours a week. A timesheet to be filled out each week is required.
- This is a paid position, via a stipend to be administered twice throughout the semester. The stipend amount depends on the hourly commitment of the position. There is also potential to receive course credit, depending on your University requirements.
- A laptop is required. If you do not have one, we will provide one.

If you are interested in applying for the Advocacy Intern position, submit your resume with relevant coursework and a letter of interest to Shannon Blankinship, Advocacy Director, at [shannon@stjohnsriverkeeper.org](mailto:shannon@stjohnsriverkeeper.org). Deadline: May 10, 2019.

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