



Advocacy Specialist

JOB DESCRIPTION

Reports to: The St. Johns Riverkeeper

Summary: The Advocacy Specialist reports to and works closely with the St. Johns Riverkeeper to monitor the health of the St. Johns, evaluate/prioritize issues and emerging threats, advocate for actions to improve and protect the river's health and expand relationships with watershed stakeholders. This position requires science and legal/environmental policy skills. The Advocacy Specialist will assist and at times direct advocacy strategies to address loss of fish and wildlife habitat, nitrogen/phosphorous pollution, harmful algae blooms (HABs), climate change and other emerging issues.

Activities will include pollution response, citizen science, policy support, and research.

Principle Responsibilities:

- Gather, review, and analyze existing studies, best practices, and data to support the evaluation and tracking of key issues, and the identification and prioritization of issue positions and policies.
- Work directly with the St. Johns Riverkeeper to identify and prioritize issues and develop strategies and action plans. This includes the development of partnerships and coalitions and the creation of content for fact sheets, petitions, and other advocacy outreach tools.
- Evaluate and address potential emerging threats to the watershed.
- Manage the SJRK Pollution Hotline and coordinate the appropriate response.
- Work with the Education and Outreach staff to develop and implement Citizen Science Programs, such as:
 - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping
 - HABs Sampling
- Develop and implement an angler advocacy program.
- Implement a robust permit and compliance monitoring program for point source pollution, stormwater, and wetland impacts.
- Engage in the research and management strategies necessary to ensure effective conservation efforts in natural ecosystems, particularly using GIS and water resource assessments.
- Work with partner organizations on joint issues that strengthen our statewide presence.
- Represent St. Johns Riverkeeper at public meetings and on committees, when needed.
- Provide presentations and programs to civic organizations.

Desired Skills, Qualifications & Personal Characteristics:

1. Must have a deep commitment to environmental and conservation issues, especially as related to the St. Johns River.

2. Must have the ability to conduct investigations of the river and potential pollution problems.
3. Must have strong skills in communicating difficult technical issues to lay audiences, including elected officials and the public. Must be able to professionally and effectively communicate and advocate positions even when controversial.
4. Must have strong initiative and be a self-starter. Must be able to manage multiple projects concurrently, including schedules, budgets and reports and be able to effectively work independently with little supervision.
5. Should be able to work effectively with a broad range of constituents and organizations.
6. Should have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in environmental science, natural resources or a related field.
7. Must have 3-5 years of experience in related field.
8. Knowledge of GIS is preferred.
9. Boat handling and fishing experience a plus.

Salary/Benefits:

\$43,000 - \$48,000, including benefits. Commensurate with experience and other qualifications.

Application:

Submit your resume with a letter of interest to Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, at Lisa@stjohnsriverkeeper.org by **Monday, January 23, 2023**.

Resumes will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and a hiring decision may be rendered prior to the deadline.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, status as a veteran, and basis of disability or any other federal, state or local protected class.

St. Johns RIVERKEEPER, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that serves as an advocate for the St. Johns River, its watershed, and the citizens to whom this tremendous resource belongs. Our mission is to defend the St. Johns River and advocate for its protection.

St. Johns RIVERKEEPER
2800 University Blvd. N.
Jacksonville, FL 32211
(904) 256-7613
www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org