

Conservation Education and Interpretation Practicum Program
Sponsored by
Iowa State University
Story County Conservation

The Conservation Education and Interpretation Practicum Program, sponsored by Iowa State University and Story County Conservation (SCC) involves practical experience in the field of conservation education for students majoring in Animal Ecology, Environmental Studies, Forestry, Botany, Biology, Zoology, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and other related fields of study.

The program is intended for students interested in careers as interpretive naturalists, outdoor educators, outdoor recreation leaders, environmental education instructors, and other related careers.

- The practicum program (offered spring and fall) is one semester in length. It may be taken for credit. For course number, instructor, number of credits, etc., which vary with each department, see your advisor.
- Participants will be expected to work at least one full day per week (approximately eight hours per work day).
- Participants receive no financial payment.
- Participants may be required to provide their own transportation to their work sites.
- Participants are encouraged to take Animal Ecology 330 (Interpretation of Natural Resources) before applying.
- **Application deadline for the spring semester is the first Friday in December. Application deadline for the fall semester is the first Friday in May.**

The practicum experience with SCC primarily involves working with grades K-6 within the county's school system. It may include weekend and evening public programs in the following areas:

- observing and presenting in-class programs
- observing and leading outdoor conservation education outdoor experiences
- providing assistance to naturalists for public programs and activities
- developing displays and writing articles for the conservation newsletter
- performing any other activities suggested

Review processes may include;

- weekly journals/logs kept by the student
- midterm and final evaluations on the progress of the student by SCC
- Final summary and evaluation of the practicum experience by the student to SCC/advisor.

Please note: All applicants will be required to undergo background checks in reference to their driving records, criminal history, and child abuse registry prior to acceptance as an intern working with young people.

Applicants should complete and return the application form to Story County Conservation.

To download an application, visit www.storycountyconservation.org.

For more information about the Story County Conservation practicum, contact Jerry Keys at 515/232-2516 or jkeys@storycountyiaowa.gov.