

The Conservation Leader Internship Program:

How land trusts can support the next generation of diverse leaders in conservation



By: Kim Elsenbroek and Megan Oropeza

Conservation Leader Internship Program



Research Experiences
For Undergraduates

The Nature
Conservancy



R.E.A.C.H.
*Research Enriched
Academic Challenge*



Research Rookies

@Southern Illinois
University Carbondale


**Plants of
Concern**

TRIO
RONALD E. MCNAIR
POST-BACCALAUREATE
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Key program elements

- Hands on Field Training
- Community Building
 - Intergenerational connectivity
 - Interpersonal connectivity



- Personal and Professional Development



Key Program Elements: Hands on Field Training

Getting to know plants

- Proper identification through pattern and character recognition
- Specimen collection and preservation methods
- Introduction to taxonomy nomenclature

Technical training

- Invasive species management
- Safe operation and basic maintenance of chainsaw & brush-saw
- Introduction to prescribed burning



Key Program Objectives: Community Building

- Small Waters
- Environmental Education
- Pollinator Garden Planting
- Volunteer workdays
- Brown Bear



Key Program Elements: Personal & Professional Development



RECOMPOSE



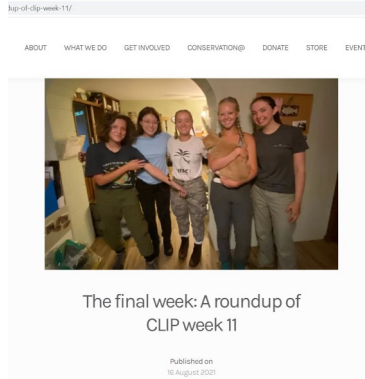
- Resume workshops
 - Develop self-advocacy skills
 - Practice networking and professional correspondence
- Leadership opportunities
 - Encouraged to step into leadership role for one or more days in the field
- Exploring career opportunities
 - Science Career Panel
 - Field trips and workshops



Measuring Program Success



Why is art important in the field of conservation?



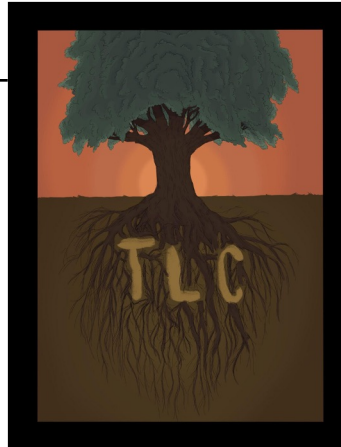
Did you face any challenges during CLIP? If yes, what were they and how did you overcome them?

“Doing things that were outside of my comfort zone, like chainsawing and working with the kids at Brownbear. I think a positive attitude, preparing thoroughly, and having the support of you guys and my fellow interns really helped me tackle those challenges.”

“Art helps connect people to nature and can motivate them to preserve it”

How has CLIP impacted you overall?

“CLIP has taught me more than I ever imagined it would, confirmed that I am pursuing the right career path for me and made me more confident in my abilities. This experience as a whole could not have been better and I know it has given me a unique head start into my future in conservation”



“I'm so thankful for the entire experience!”

CLIP: How to

Phase I

- 1) Assess in house programing
- 2) Assess organizational connections
- 3) Establish new connections

Phase II

- 1) Establish Partnership agreements
- 2) Create Schedule
- 3) Recruit/Interview/hire

Phase III

- 1) Prepare for intern arrival
- 2) Run CLIP program

Phase IV

- 1) Program wrap up
 - a) Exit evaluations
 - b) Overall program evaluation
- 2) Program Report

Resources

- Interview questions
- Partner Letters
- Acceptance Letters
- Calendar details
- Flier
- Surveys and workshop reviews
- CLIP report



CONSERVATION LEADER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

JUNE 2022–AUGUST 2022

"NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED"

\$14/HR 40 HRS/WEEK (*school credit options available)

Who Are We? The Land Conservancy of McHenry County (TLC) is a Non-Profit Organization that focuses on preserving and restoring privately owned land in McHenry County Illinois. For more information visit: www.conservemc.org

Qualifications:

Do you love the outdoors and nature? Do you have an interest in learning more about the field of conservation?? If so, CLIP is for you! CLIP is a PAID internship designed to empower underserved and BIPOC students interested in pursuing a career in the field of conservation. CLIP will provide interns with relevant hands on experiences in the field of conservation; collectively these skills will give each participant a strong understanding of the field of conservation and serve as a springboard for a professional career in the field of conservation.

Skills/Training you will gain: Plant identification, Land management, GIS/GPS training, Prescribed fire training, Herbicide use, Rare plant monitoring, Wildlife/Stream surveys, Regenerative farming techniques, Land preservation techniques, Field safety, Scientific research/Experimental design, Art in the natural world, Career development and Professional networking.

Applicants must be willing to work in extreme weather conditions and on adverse terrain.

Eligibility: High School Junior/Senior or College-aged individuals. *Applicants are not required to be enrolled in a college program.

Requirements: Transportation to TLC Headquarters. Housing preferred. (*TLC may have limited housing available inquire within)

No gear? No worries. CLIP will provide you with the essentials!!! All you need is yourself, old jeans and a T-shirt!



CLIP Interns 2021

CLIP FIELD TRIPS TO:

Nachusa Grasslands

McHenry County Conservation District (Glacial Park)

Indiana Dunes National Park

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

McHenry County College

To apply:

- Send letter of interest and resume/ work history (if applicable) to: kelsenbroek@conservemc.org and moropeza@conservemc.org
- Due Date: February 18, 2022
- Thinking about applying but have questions? Contact Kim Eisenbroek at TLC for more internship details.

Today



June 2022



Month ▾



SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Jun 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am CLIP First Day 11:15am CLIP first day par 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Meet at Hennen 9am Workday 1:30pm Herbicide Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Project Quercus w 1pm Invasive 	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Meet at Hennen 8:45am GIS with Dave Holi 1pm Pollinator Garden Wo 4pm Return to Hennen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Invasive 1pm Pollinator Garden Wo 4pm Return to Hennen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Meet at Hennen 9am Workday 1:30pm Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Natural History with E 12:30pm Intro to Research 	11
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30pm Bluestem Ecolog 5pm Group Dinner 6:30pm Art and nature witi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Small Waters Educ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Meet at Hennen 9am Workday 1:30pm Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Meet at Hennen 8:30am Stream Survey wit 1:30pm Invasive or Seed 	18 Reading Assignment 1
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Environmental Outree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Invasive or Seed 1pm Plant ID Hike and coll 2:45pm Plant Book_Plant I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Meet at Hennen 9am Workday 1:30pm Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Meet at Hennen 9am Final Friday Workday 12:30pm Check in 1 2 more 	25 Review POC Website and Vol
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am POC monitoring @ 1:30pm Butterflies? TBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Invasive or Seed 1pm Land Preservation St 2pm Nature Photography \ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Meet at Hennen 9am Workday 1:30pm Invasive or Seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butterflies? TBA 	2 Reading Assignment 2
					Jul 1	

Questions?

Kim Elsenbroek (Land Conservation Specialist)

kelsenbroek@conservemc.org

Megan Oropeza (Restoration Ecologist)

moropeza@conservemc.org

