Black Cat GIS & Biological
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Tracking, Reporting, and Innovative Methods in Identifying Litter in the Galveston Bay Watershed

Black Cat GIS (BC) is contracted to the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) to complete a project comparing and refining techniques to assess marine debris. We are hiring interns to assist with the project.

This is a paid position. Interns will earn $550 a month at a base rate (independent of hours worked). Internship shall commence on February 1, 2020, and shall continue through July 31, 2020.

Description

Interns will assist BC to complete a methodology comparison between plastic litter survey techniques in the Galveston Bay watershed. Interns must be current students at a local university or community college (TAMUG, UH, TSU, UHCL, etc.) and will assist with all aspects of field surveys: volunteer recruitment, training of volunteers, data collection, disposal of trash, data entry, etc.

Interns will be encouraged to complete independent projects if needed for school credit and will be assisted with creating presentations (oral or poster) for a future scientific conference if desired.

- There will be at least 4 survey sites to perform field work. At least one site will be located on the east side of Buffalo Bayou and at minimum one site will be on the Galveston Bay shoreline. Each site will be surveyed a minimum of 2 times. Sites will be chosen based on access and safety of cleanup volunteers and staff.
- Intern will assist in field methodology design and surveys to compare two techniques for gathering data on plastic pollution (specifically plastic beverage containers/bottles). Techniques used will possibly be a 10-minute visual bottle count from a known transect vs. a more traditional transect cataloguing survey where all trash is collected and recorded.
- Intern will assist with gathering metrics on trash metadata including but not limited to: individual object counts, weights of bagged trash, volume of bagged trash.
- Field work will be completed from February 2020 – July 2020.
- Interns will reach out to local stakeholders and partners to increase awareness of project and to coordinate efforts with current events and cleanups.
- Interns will assist with summarizing all findings in a report and packaging final shapefiles for delivery to HARC.
- Interns will be instructing volunteers on field debris collection methodology and techniques, overseeing groups of volunteers, and maintaining a safe, fun environment.
• Interns are estimated to spend 10-12 hours per week on this project. Hours can be completed around classwork, however field work on certain Saturdays is required.
• Pay is a base rate for the month, independent of hours worked. Hours will vary.

**Qualifications**

The following qualifications are desired:

• Must be currently enrolled as a student in a Houston/ Galveston area university pursuing a degree in biology, zoology, animal behavior, ecology, environmental science, or a related field.
• Ability to work independently with minimal oversight. This position will be working from home and requires an applicant that can set goals, create tasks, and reach out to various community and university groups independently.
• Skilled in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint.
• Availability on certain Saturdays to oversee volunteers during field workdays.
• Comfortable speaking to and directing adult aged volunteers.
• Experience in GIS, education, and field work a plus but not required. BC can teach interns these skills, what we’re looking for are students with an excellent work ethic and motivation.

**To Apply**

Please email the following to a.hackney@blackcatgis.com by COB on January 24th:
1. Resume
2. Contact information for three references
3. Cover letter explaining your interest in the position and why you are best qualified