



Loon & Lakes Research Intern

Spend a summer at The Nest with the National Loon Center! We're looking for an enthusiastic summer intern to support our programs dedicated to research, education, and conservation of the Common Loon and its freshwater habitat. You will learn and develop skills in avian monitoring, science communication, and community science. Work closely with the Science & Stewardship Manager as part of a small, collaborative team where every day brings something new. Join us for an exciting year as the National Loon Center continues construction on our upcoming educational facility at our future campus site. This internship is based out of our informational center, The Nest, in Crosslake, Minnesota.

Qualifications

- Currently enrolled in a 2-4 year degree or will have graduated within two weeks of the start date
- Prior knowledge and passion for the conservation of loons and freshwater lakes
- Currently pursuing or have earned a degree in ecology, biological sciences, or a related field
- Familiarity with wildlife survey techniques
- Comfortable with public speaking and participating in outreach programs
- Able to work independently or as part of a team
- Must be able to work in-person in Crosslake and travel to surrounding areas
- Must be able to work 40 hours per week (Tuesday-Saturday, approximately 8:00am-4:00pm)

Responsibilities

- Engage members of the public in loon monitoring through weekly Loon Research Tours on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes
- Record data on loon productivity during on-water educational excursions and dedicated surveys
- Assist with the coordination of loon mortality collection and transport
- Enter and organize loon monitoring and loon mortality data
- Support community science efforts through eBird and iNaturalist (including loon mortality projects via iNaturalist)
- Take water clarity measurements and record data at stream sites on the Pine River
- Monitor for aquatic invasive species on Cross Lake and educate the public on AIS issues
- Support outreach programs as needed, primarily through guiding loon-watching excursions on Cross Lake and engaging with visitors to The Nest (Saturdays)
- Contribute research updates for social media, e-newsletter, and website
- Lead guided loon-watching paddles

Compensation and Schedule Details

This is a full-time internship that runs for a maximum of 16 weeks from May-August, 2026. Start and end dates dependent on candidate availability. This is a paid internship with compensation of \$19/hour at 40 hours per week. The typical work week is Tuesday-Saturday.

Ability to Commute or Relocate

Candidates must be able to commute reliably or relocate before beginning employment. A valid driver's license and vehicle is required. Travel to events and programs will be reimbursed at the federal mileage reimbursement rate.

Workplace Values

The National Loon Center is committed to providing a welcoming, professional, and respectful environment both within the workplace itself, and as our staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers engage with the public. We place a high value on building a team with diverse identities, perspectives, skills, and styles. We aim to expand our impact by reaching new audiences and historically underrepresented communities. We will foster and maintain a safe, welcoming and accessible workplace and visitor experience for all.

Application Process

The application deadline is January 30, 2026.

Please direct questions to Natasha Bartolotta, Science & Stewardship Manager:
natasha@nationallooncenter.org | 218-692-5666

To apply, email your cover letter, resume, and two references as PDF documents to natasha@nationallooncenter.org with the subject line: "2026 Research Intern." Please share about your interests/goals and what appeals to you about this internship in your cover letter.

This internship is supported by Sourcewell; the selected candidate must sign an internship reimbursement agreement prior to the position start date.

Organizational Overview

The National Loon Center in Crosslake, Minnesota aims to restore and protect loon breeding habitats, enhance responsible recreation, and serve as a national leader in advancing loon and freshwater research and education. The National Loon Center's world-class facility is set to open in 2027. To learn more about the National Loon Center, please visit www.nationallooncenter.org.