

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute

for environmental education

Research Assistant Fellowship **2019 Application**

General Information

1. Purpose:

The purpose of the *Research Assistantship* is to nurture the development of promising students who are interested in environmental science research and land management. The *Research Assistant* program enables a student, with support from a faculty mentor, to gain hands-on experience in natural areas management research and work with other scientists to conduct an intensive research project at the Institute. The student will receive a \$4,200 stipend, and each applicant will be provided with up to 12 weeks of on-site housing and breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday while at the Institute during the summer months.

Fellowship activities include:

- Field work
- Monitoring and identifying of organisms
- Utilizing technology such as GPS/GIS
- Sharing findings and experiences through presentations and papers
- Communicating with the general public
- Working as a part of a team.

2. Eligibility:

Research Assistantships are available to undergraduate students of the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute Consortium. Full-time students who have not yet completed the requirements for graduation are eligible. Students must be over 18 by the start of the project. Applicants who are not citizens of the United States should contact the Institute prior to applying to make special arrangements.

3. Grant Award:

Fellows will receive a \$4,200 stipend, and each applicant can also request up to 12 weeks of on-site housing and meal support (continental breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday) while at the Institute during the summer months. The announcement of the student selection will be made by the end of April 2019.

4. Responsibilities and Reporting:

The participants of all funded projects will need to sign an agreement and return it to the Institute prior to starting the project.

The following is required for all fellows:

1. Fellows are expected to participate in the summer program including weekly meetings and service hours. Faculty are expected to lead one of the weekly meetings for the fellows.
2. Fellows are required to complete 20 service hours over the summer.
3. Fellows will provide a progress presentation and report in late June.
4. Fellows will present results of their project on September 28, 2019 at the Research Report Meeting.
5. Fellows must submit their work and a summary of their experience by October 21, 2019. All documents and reports submitted to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will become the property of the Institute to use and duplicate at the Institute's discretion.
6. Students and faculty mentors are required to participate in the evaluation of the summer program.

In addition to assigned work projects, each fellow will complete an individual research, stewardship project developed with Institute staff. They will also complete a summary of their experience at the Institute.

5. Fellowship Payments:

Student stipends will be paid in five installments, with the last payment paid after the final project and report are approved.

Application and Guidelines

1. Application:

The completed application must be e-mailed as a .doc, .docx or .pdf to Matthew Dykstra (dykstram@cedarcreekinstitute.org) by April 20, 2019. The application should have 1-inch margins and be in 11- or 12-point font.

The application must include:

- a. Cover sheet, including two references (see below)
- b. Brief synopsis of your background, and career goals. Describe how you would benefit the work being completed this summer and how the experience would benefit your career.
- c. Resume
- d. Unofficial transcript reflecting courses completed and grades received.

Any questions regarding the grants can be directed to: Matthew Dykstra - Field Station Manager, dykstram@cedarcreekinstitute.org or 269-721-4473.

2. Award Evaluation Criteria

The following factors along with a personal interview will be considered in making award decisions for the *Research Assistant* program:

1. Essay is easy to understand, well-written, and presented clearly.
2. Program adds to the development of the student's academic and professional growth and development.
3. The proposal, student's resume and transcript(s) demonstrate how the student's background, experience, and interests contribute to the project.
4. Student's coursework and experience demonstrate their ability to successfully complete the project.

Research Assistant Fellowship
Application - Cover Sheet

Deadline: April 20, 2019

College or University:

Student

Name:
Local Address:
Permanent Address:
Phone: E-mail:
Major: Emphasis (if applicable):
Anticipated graduation date: Current GPA:
Are you a US Citizen?
Dates Available for Fellowship: to

Reference 1

Name: Department:
Address:
Phone: E-mail:

Reference 2

Name: Department:
Address:
Phone: E-mail:

Signature - By signing below, applicants are confirming that if selected they will follow the requirements of the fellowship and commit sufficient time and effort to ensure completion of the proposed work.

Applicant

Date

Pierce Cedar Creek  Institute
for environmental education

701 W. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, MI 49058 | 269-721-4190 | www.cedarcreekinstitute.org