Internship/Assistant Naturalist position(s) available at the Neilson Spearhead Center, about 9 miles south of Bemidji, Mn.  www.spearheadMHAS.org

The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society is seeking interested persons to apply for the Neilson Spearhead Center (NSC) summer program intern/assistant naturalist position(s). Most of the program will be week-long nature day camp sessions, however some weeks will travel off-site to use the scientific facilities at the Headwaters Science Center and some will have a camping overnight as part of the overall experience.

This is an internship/set of internships overseen by the Education Committee of the Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society/Neilson Spearhead Center. The intern would be an assistant to Lead Naturalist Dan Bera. **Position would be responsible to:**

- Co-organize and run the weekly day camp sessions with the Lead Naturalist, including three overnights over the course of the summer;
- Share with the Lead Naturalist program and lesson planning, design and implementation;
- Be on-site from 8:00am to 4:30pm week-days, or longer if needed; be available to assist in leading the overnight sessions, one per month.
- Assist in providing day-long environmental activities that are interactive, experiential, and accommodate a wide range of learning modes.
- Provide information about the local natural history and help to develop in program participants an environmental ethic and sense of stewardship.
- Share with the Lead Naturalist the responsibility of completing the weekly lesson plans, weekly and daily activity summaries and other paper work as necessary.

**Qualifications:** Safety training – First Aid, swimming ability, canoeing experience, ability to hike uneven terrain, punctual arrival and ability to engage immediately with students, comfortable with messy hands-on work in mud, muck, water, and woods. Able to deal with spiders, ticks, biting insects and poisonous plants.

**Knowledge and experience:** Familiar with the flora and fauna of the northwoods; know how to use field guides and dichotomous keys. Has had experience working with children and providing experiential learning. Is a team player, takes initiative to address participant and program needs, and follows through to address these needs. Has demonstrated leadership skills.

**Pay per week:** $325 - $375 depending upon qualifications and past experience. If in college, we will work with you and your institution for internship credits.

**Weeks of work with the proposed program schedule (subject to change):**

**June:**

June 16 – 20 – Birding with grades 7 – 10. This week-long session would mainly take place at NSC learning bird songs, sign, behavior, and other identification. There would be a day at the Headwaters Science Center to learn about bird bones, skulls, skins, raptors, and some interactive activities related to birds. There will be walks along the Lake Bemidji waterfront learning about bird behavior as modified by
human activities. There would also be an overnight at NSC to learn late evening and early morning birds and their behavior.

June 23-27 – Young Naturalist Program with grades 4-6. This week-long day camp is all about experiencing the north woods and lake at Neilson Spearhead Center. The week will be spent in the bogs, lake and stream as well as the various forested systems that make up NSC. A fast-paced week full of lots of nature-based fun and games, while learning about the native ecosystems and their components.

July:

July 7 – 11 – Young Naturalist Program with grades 2-4. This week-long day camp introduces young people to the north woods and lake at Neilson Spearhead Center. The week will be spent in the bogs, lake and stream as well as the various forested systems that make up NSC. A fast-paced week full of lots of nature-based fun and games helping these budding naturalists become familiar and comfortable with the northwoods.

July 14 – 18 Young Naturalist Program with grades 4-6. This week-long day camp is all about experiencing the north woods and lake at Neilson Spearhead Center. The week will be spent in the bogs, lake and stream as well as the various forested systems that make up NSC. A fast-paced week full of lots of nature-based fun and games, while learning a lot about the native ecosystems and their components.

July 21 - 25 Ecology Week with grades 6-8. This is a week-long adventure into the depths of the woods, bogs, and waters of NSC. It immerses the Middle Schoolers in the local ecosystems and works on helping them understand their responsibility in preserving places like this as well as building an overall environmental ethic. This week has an overnight with camping on the far side of the lake and a late night canoe experience.

July 28 – Aug 1 All-ages week for Grades 2 – 12. This is a week-long adventure following the whims and interests of the participants, while providing an immersion into the beauty and wonder of the northwoods of NSC. The actual program varies depending upon who and what ages register for this week-long day camp.

August

Aug 11-13-15 Buzz-illions of Animals, grades have not been determined for this program yet. This will be a joint program with the Headwaters Science Center and some local free-lance naturalists. The planning for this is not finalized, so we are not sure whether this week would be three or five days long, nor the actual age group. Early in the week it will include an overnight to draw in the nighttime fauna using a black light for night time critters with four, six, and eight legs and later in the week we will go to the HSC to learn more about animals and look at our finds a bit closer through microscopes amongst other tools.

Interested persons can apply for any set of consecutive weeks or for the full summer of sessions.

Interested applicants should apply via e-mail to: HeadwatersAudubon@gmail.com by Monday Feb 10, 2014. Applicants should submit a letter of interest documenting their qualifications, knowledge and experience, plus a resume. Applicants should indicate which weeks they are interested in working. For further information, contact George-Ann Maxson at 218-586-3414 or at mngrousehunter@gmail.com.