

Benthic Macroinvertebrate and Chemistry Lab Internship

Organization description:

Sierra Streams Institute (SSI) is a watershed monitoring, research, education, and restoration group based in Nevada City, California, dedicated to linking water, science, and people for the benefit of human and environmental health. We work with local, state, and federal agencies as well as universities and community groups to find solutions to the problems that afflict Deer Creek and Bear River, which share historical challenges resulting from gold mining and development, and more recent challenges resulting from wildfire. SSI's emphasis on community involvement and accessible science provides many opportunities for community members to get involved in our work.

Internship Description:

The Benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) and Chemistry Lab (Chem Lab) Internship is designed and aimed towards high school and college students. The internship is for people who are looking to gain experience in science who may not have any prior experience in science and research. Ideally, the interns will be looking to pursue a career in science and research.

BMI and Chem Lab interns will

- Gain skills in **BMI identification** to the taxonomic level of Order
- Learn how to use a **microscope** proficiently
- Learn how to **monitor water quality** using industry standard equipment
- Assist on **creek surveys** (if available)
- Gain understanding of how **professional science labs** are run and operated
- Have the option to conduct their own project - this can be a data research project, art project, writing project, or something else of the interns choosing.

The research project is mostly self-guided, with guidance from the BMI Lab Manager. The research project must relate to SSI's work in some capacity. Examples of previous research projects include: videos, blog posts, data analyses, zines, and infographics.

Commitment:

60 hours during the fall or spring semester; schedule flexible within the BMI Lab Manager's availability

Apply:

Please email Mali Valerio at bugs@sierrastreamsinstitute.org with a personal statement detailing your background in ecology, biology, or a related field, as well as which internship you're interested in and why. College students must also send a resume.

Internships will be open until filled. We accept up to 2 interns per semester.

