

***Natural Resource Fellowships***

**2024 Application**

1. **Background:**

The purpose of the *Natural Resource Fellowship* at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute is to nurture the development of promising students interested in natural areas management and research. *Natural Resources Fellows* will work with natural resource professionals and scientists at the Institute and with other organizations, gaining skills in both natural resource management and research. Fellows will complete a variety of assigned tasks and have the opportunity to learn aspects of research and environmental education. Fellows commit to working a minimum of 360 hours over 10-12 weeks from mid-May through early August. For 2024, the Institute plans to fund four fellows in two programs.

*Steeby Land Management Fellowship –* Two students will work as a team conducting natural resource management activities at the Institute. Students will be trained to use technology and tools to help them managing invasive species, conduct trail maintenance, work on a carbon sequestration project, and other work as assigned. Students will be conducting field work in a variety of conditions. Tasks will include working with volunteers and sharing results with the larger community.

*Barry County Water Quality Monitoring Project -* Two students will work as a team with natural resource professionals to conduct water quality monitoring throughout Barry County, including biological and chemical surveys of lakes and streams. Students will be conducting field work in a variety of conditions. Tasks will include sharing results with the larger community.

The Institute is planning to support and carry out this program safely and may adjust the timing of the program and the availability of housing and laboratory space due to any unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

1. **Eligibility:**

The Institute’s *Natural Resource Fellowship* is available to students of the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute Consortium (see list at <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>). Full-time students or individuals who have graduated within six months of the start date are eligible. Students must be over 18 by the start of the project.

1. **Grant Award:**

Fellows will receive a $5,400 stipend. Housing is available from May 13 until August 9. Food service (breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday) is scheduled from May 20 until July 28, 2024. The announcement of the student selection will be made by March 15, 2024.

1. **Responsibilities and Reporting:**

Fellowship grantees must sign an agreement and return it to the Institute by April 15, 2024.

The following are required for all fellows:

1. Attend an orientation meeting at the Institute on April 13, 2024.
2. Complete all program paperwork, including a background check.
3. Participate in the summer program, including weekly meetings and service hours.
4. Complete 20 service hours.
5. Provide a progress presentation and report on June 27, 2024.
6. Prepare and present a poster summarizing their experiences on August 7, 2024, at the Summer Report Meeting.
7. Submit a report by August 30, 2024. All documents submitted to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will become the property of the Institute to use and duplicate at the Institute’s discretion.
8. Complete an evaluation of the field station programs.
9. **Fellowship Payments:**

Grantees may be employed through the Institute, or supported in part by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation or subcontractor. Grantees may need to complete a weekly timesheet. Student stipends will be paid biweekly.

**Application and Guidelines**

1. **Application:**

The completed application must be e-mailed as a .docx file to Matthew Dykstra (mdykstra@cedarcreekinstitute.org) by 10 pm EST, February 1, 2024. The application should have 1-inch margins and be in 11- or 12-point font. Up-to-date versions of the application are available at: <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>.

The application must include:

* 1. **Cover sheet**, including two professional references. At least one reference must be a faculty member at your college or university. The letter of recommendation may come from a reference.
	2. Two-page **synopsis** of your background, education, and career goals. Include a description of how this program will fit your career goals and development as a natural resources/science professional. Describe why we should select you for this program. Finally, include a statement that you will commit to full time work during a minimum period of 10 weeks to the Institute to successful complete the fellowship.
	3. **Resume**
	4. Unofficial **transcript** reflecting courses completed and grades received.
	5. **Letter of recommendation** from a faculty member at your college or university.

Questions regarding the fellowships are welcome. Contact Matthew Dykstra - Field Station Manager, mdykstra@cedarcreekinstitute.org, or 269-721-4473.

1. **Award Evaluation Criteria**

The following factors, along with a personal interview, will be considered in making award decisions for the *Natural Resources Fellowships*:

1. The synopsis of background, education, and career goals is easy to understand, well-written, and presented clearly.
2. The program adds to the development of the student’s academic and professional growth and development.
3. The student’s resume and transcript(s) demonstrate how the student’s background, experience, and interests will contribute to the Institute’s work.
4. Student’s enthusiasm and commitment to take on the challenge of summer field work.

***Natural Resources Fellowship***

##### Application - Cover Sheet

***Deadline****: February 1, 2024*

**College or University**:

# **Student**

# Name:

Local Address:

Permanent Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

Major:       Emphasis (if applicable):

Anticipated graduation date:       Current GPA:

Driver’s License State and Number (for background check)

Are you a US Citizen?

Dates Available for Fellowship:       to

**Fellowship Interest –** Please rank or mark the fellowships you would like to be considered for:

      Steeby Land Management Fellowship

      Barry County Water Quality Project Fellowship

**Reference 1**

Name:       Department:

Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

**Reference 2**

Name:       Department:

Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

**Signature -** By signing below, applicants confirm that all information provided is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. If awarded, fellows will follow the requirements of the program guidelines and commit sufficient time and effort to ensure the completion of the proposed work.

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Applicant Date



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