

***Steeby Natural Resource Fellowships***

**2026 Application**

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the *Steeby Natural Resource Fellowship* at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (PCCI) is to nurture the development of promising students interested in natural areas management and research. *Steeby* *Natural Resources Fellows* will work with natural resource professionals and scientists at PCCI 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.

Students will work as a team conducting natural resource management activities at PCCI. Students will be trained to use technology and tools to help them manage invasive species, conduct trail maintenance, work on a ecological restoration projects, collect water quality monitoring data, and do 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.

1. **Eligibility:**

PCCI’s *Steeby Natural Resource Fellowship* is available to students of the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute Consortium of colleges and universities (see list at <https://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/research>). 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. **Fellowship Award and Payments:**

Fellows can earn up to $6,000 and will need to complete a weekly timesheet. Students will be paid biweekly based on the number of hours worked (up to 400 hours over 12 weeks). Housing and food service (breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday) is available from May 18 until August 7, 2026.

Fellows may be employed through PCCI or supported in part by the STEAM Ahead statewide program, administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) or subcontractor.

The student selection will be announced by March 23, 2026.

1. **Responsibilities and Reporting:**

Fellowship grantees must sign an agreement and return it to PCCI by April 3, 2026.

The following are required for all fellows:

1. Attend an orientation meeting at PCCI on April 18, 2026.
2. Complete all program paperwork, including a background check.
3. Participate in the summer program, including weekly meetings and service hours.
4. Provide a progress presentation and report on June 25, 2026 and verbal summary of their work to the general public at a Field Station Tour (July 16, 2026).
5. Prepare and present a poster summarizing their experiences on August 5, 2026, at the Field Station’s End of Summer Celebration for the general public.
6. Submit a summary of their work and experience by August 7, 2026. All documents submitted to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute will become the property of the Institute to use and duplicate at the PCCI’s discretion.
7. Complete an evaluation of the field station programs.

**Application and Guidelines**

1. **Application:**

The completed application must be e-mailed as a Word or PDF file to Ellen Holste ([eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org)) by 10 pm EST, February 2, 2026. 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://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/research/>.

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 at PCCI to successfully 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 Ellen Holste – Research and Community Engagement Manager, [eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org), or 269-721-4170.

1. **Award Evaluation Criteria**

The following factors, along with a personal interview, will be considered in making award decisions for the *Steeby 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 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 PCCI’s work.
4. Student’s enthusiasm and commitment to take on the challenge of summer field work.

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##### Application - Cover Sheet

***Deadline****: February 2, 2026*

**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 authorized to work in the U.S.?

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 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



701 W. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, MI 49058 | 269-721-4190 | [www.cedarcreekinstitute.org](http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org)