



# Summer 2024 Field Research Positions in Plant Ecology

**Position Overview**

- **Position location:** The University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve in East Bethel, MN
- **Research group:** Isbell Biodiversity Lab (Principal Investigator: Dr. Forest Isbell, Associate Professor)
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Nicole Kollars, Lab Manager and Researcher
- **Start and end dates:** This is a full-time, but temporary, position. The start and end dates are flexible depending on the intern's academic schedule. However, we need interns to start as early as late May and can provide recent graduates employment through the fall. UMN undergraduate research interns typically work from early June through late Aug.
- **Rate of pay:** $7,480 = $17 per hour x 40 hours per week x 11 weeks. This lump sum does not include the possibility of employment extension and any overtime pay earned during peak times in Aug. Interns are paid on a bi-weekly basis.
- **Housing:** Cedar Creek has shared housing facilities on site. Financial assistance is available to cover the full cost of rent.
- **Required qualifications:** HS diploma; Experience working as a member of a team; Willingness to work outdoors*
- **Desired qualifications:** Demonstrated interest in a career in field ecology or related discipline; Demonstrated attention-to-detail and communication skills
- **Application materials:** cover letter addressing the above qualifications; resume; contact information for three references
- **To apply:** 1) Visit https://hr.umn.edu/Jobs/Find-Job; 2) Select the option you identify with: "External candidate", UMN "Student", or "UMN Employee". Note: we cannot provide employment to interns who will simultaneously work another position with UMN. 3) Search Job #358966 (External candidate) or Job #358964 (current UMN undergraduate student).
- **Application due date:** Review of applications will begin on Feb 1st and continue until positions are filled
- **Direct questions to:** Nicole Kollars (kolla096@umn.edu)

The Isbell Biodiversity Lab at the University of Minnesota is **hiring multiple early-career research interns** to assist with ecological field work. Recent high school graduates, undergraduate students and post-baccalaureates are all encouraged to apply. The Isbell lab has several ecological research projects that consider the effects of biodiversity and global changes on grassland, forest, and oak savannah plant communities.

**Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve** has many large-scale experimental platforms and is one of the most active ecological research sites worldwide. Cedar Creek is a member of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) **Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network** and hosts the **ASCEND** (Advancing Spectral Biology in Changing ENvironments to understand Diversity) NSF Biology Integration Institute. The Isbell lab contributes to both of these research program, making us part of larger collaborative teams.

The Isbell lab seeks to promote **diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice at Cedar Creek** and beyond. Our vision is a future where biodiversity and the full diversity of people thrive. Our commitment is to be an inclusive place for research and a welcoming and supportive community for people of all identities. We seek research interns who will contribute to these efforts and who embrace these commitments.

## Position Responsibilities

- Work efficiently and collegiately as part of a team
- Set-up and maintain field experiments
- Develop and apply plant identification skills
- Collect ecological samples and data, including (but not limited to) aboveground plant biomass, root biomass, and abiotic environmental measurements
- Maintain a network of wildlife trail cameras
- Assist with other research projects as needed

***Note:** The majority of our daily tasks is "field work" which involves working long periods outdoors in natural spaces. This includes exposure to a variety of weather conditions and potential exposure to pesky insects. However, we will never ask interns to work outside in unsafe conditions, we welcome people of diverse abilities, and we support reasonable accommodations.*

## Position Opportunities:

- Opportunity to develop, carry out, and present an independent project related to the Isbell lab's research interests
- Interact with and receive mentoring from scientists from all career stages
- Grow as a scientist through professional development workshops, career panels, and research seminars