

# Native Bee Watch Community Science - Outreach and Education Internship

## Extension Agent Mentor and Intern Supervisor Contact

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## Faculty Mentor

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**Region Participation** – Statewide, remote work with some in-person work (depending on COVID-19 protocols) along the Front Range from Fort Collins to south Denver.

**Goals, Scope and Objectives** – Pollinator populations are declining worldwide, partly due to urbanization and habitat loss. Bees, specifically, are crucial for sustainable ecosystems, necessitating the need to strengthen efforts in public awareness and engagement to mitigate continued declines.

Native Bee Watch (NBW) is a community science program offered through CSU Extension that trains and supports volunteers to identify and monitor bees. As a multi-disciplinary collaboration, NBW's overarching goal is to create a ripple effect of engagement and education based on ecological and social science research.

The overall goal of this internship is to immerse the student in all aspects of Extension educational programming and coordination, and applied research related to the NBW program. This include planning, implementation, and evaluation.

The NBW Education and Outreach Internship will support and expand the program by 1) participating in NBW team meetings, 2) coordinating the community science volunteers, 3) delivering educational programming that may include social media, virtual presentations and videos, educational and marketing materials, informal science writing, 4) training volunteers that may include spot checking data accuracy, and working one-on-one in the field with volunteers, 5) collaborate with faculty mentor on the applied research of NBW, and 6) possible data collection at a public garden site.

Depending on the student's interest, there may also be an opportunity to develop their own educational programming on a topic of their interest related to environmental education, open spaces, entomology, trees, lawns, gardening, sustainable landscaping, etc.

**PRU Involvement** - The internship supports priority the Environmental Horticulture PRU and the Natural Resources PRU locally and on a statewide level. The intern's work will also support the PRU's Pollinator Work Group committee that is focused on making science-based pollinator education more readily available statewide.

**Learning Outcomes and Professional Development** - The intern will gain experience with verbal and written communication, working as a team, teaching and coordinating volunteers, and problem solving. They will also gain knowledge in the areas of pollinator conservation, horticulture issues as it relates to individuals and communities. Skills developed during the internship will be transferrable to other jobs and projects the student may pursue. The intern will also have the opportunity to shadow staff in other program areas and will gain a broader understanding of the role of Extension interfacing with research and the community.

**Stakeholder Support** - The intern will work closely with Arapahoe County, Native Bee Watch volunteers and possibly Colorado Master Gardener volunteers. Depending on where the intern is located, there may be opportunities to involve other partners involved in NBW.

**Mentorship Style** - Lisa has mentored students throughout her career. She enjoys working with students and providing them with experiential learning opportunities. Lisa and the NBW team are passionate about their work and balance collaboration with independence. The intern will have a support network to rely on, but will be expected to be a self-starter, work remotely without direct supervision, and have excellent communication skills.

**Travel Funds** – If current COVID protocols allow for travel, funds will be determined.