

Native Bee Watch Community Science - Outreach and Education Internship

Extension Agent Mentor and Intern Supervisor Contact

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Overview: 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 Native Bee Watch Community Science program.

This internship will focus on the education and outreach components of Native Bee Watch including:

- 1) coordinating the community science volunteers,
- 2) delivering virtual and in-person educational programming (e.g. presentations, videos, educational and marketing materials, informal science writing)
- 3) training volunteers (e.g. spot checking data accuracy and working one-on-one in the field with volunteers), and
- 4) collecting native bee data at a public garden site.

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.

Students with entomology coursework and/or experience are encouraged to apply.

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.

Mentors and Partners – The intern will work with Lisa Mason, a Horticulture Agent in Arapahoe County, and Dr. Jill Zarestky, from the School of Education. The NBW team values experiential learning opportunities and the development of skills aligned with professional goals. Zarestky and Mason are passionate about their work and balance collaboration with independence. The intern will work closely with Arapahoe County, Native Bee Watch volunteers, Colorado Master Gardener volunteers, and other community groups across the Front Range.

Location – The intern will split time between remote work and in-person events along the Front Range, primarily in Denver and Fort Collins.