DCDC Internship: Audubon Arizona

**Location:**
Audubon Arizona  
3131 S. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

**Website:** [http://az.audubon.org/](http://az.audubon.org/)

DCDC Internship Program Information

**About the internship organization:**

Audubon Arizona’s mission is to connect people with nature, using education, science and advocacy to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and earth’s biodiversity.

**About the internship:**

By the end of this internship, the intern will have an understanding of the complexities in land use management and conservation planning. The intern will be able to demonstrate their ability to bring together disparate information and make it a coherent planning tool. The intern will synthesize and use others’ data to propose management recommendations and natural resources conservation funding solutions.

Duties for this internship include:

- Research the land ownership (e.g. federal, state, county, private) and the land use type (e.g. open space, flood plain, agricultural, park) in the Middle Lower Gila River region of the west valley (near Avondale, Goodyear, and Buckeye). Match land ownership with land use type. Locate and synthesize other work that may already exist on this topic. Input research results into an Excel-based database or a GIS-based map.
- Develop a list of potential applicable funding and conservation programs for preserving natural resources, removing invasive plants, restoring habitat, and setting aside land in conservation easements.
- Work with Director of Bird Conservation and other science staff to utilize existing bird survey data as well as accepted scientific principles to determine optimal habitat conservation or restoration areas in the Middle Lower Gila River. Working with others on the team, explore the relationship among observed bird populations, agricultural cropping or fallowing patterns, time of year, and specific natural and constructed geographic features of Middle Lower Gila River that appear to be suitable habitat for specific bird species.
- Conduct interviews with experts in order to better understand the natural resources issues and potential solutions along the Middle Lower Gila River.
- Work with Policy Manager to understand and describe the water resources of the Middle Lower Gila River area.
- Goal final deliverable: Excel-based database or GIS-based map with important land ownership and land use features relevant to bird habitat preservation and natural resources conservation.
Desired Qualifications:

- Ability to conduct land use planning research by evaluating a variety of sources (online, historical, public records).
- Intermediate understanding of land use planning and/or urban planning.
- Beginning to intermediate understanding of GIS databases and ArcGIS.
- Intermediate understanding of Excel and ability to organize data with attention to detail.
- Beginning understanding or general interest in water resources, conservation and efficiency, birds, and wildlife.
- Tactful and respectful in professional situations.
- An active listener who seeks to learn and better understand complexity. Inquisitive.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and also in teams.

Preferred Majors:
Open to all majors. Degrees offering credit include: School of Sustainability (SOS 484), School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning (PUP 484), Barrett Honors College (HON 484)

Compensation:
There is a stipend associated with this internship in the amount of $1,350, which is paid in two installments in the spring semester.

Hours Per Week:
135 hours total. 10-12 hours/week during the spring semester

Closing Date:
October 14, 2018

Application Instructions and Contact Info:
Please send a resume and cover letter indicating specific interest in this internship position and why you are a good candidate.

Submit materials to: Emily Grunspan, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Decision Center for a Desert City, Emily.Grunspan@asu.edu