

BOTANIST/NATURALIST

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, familiarizes community groups, county agency staff and other county residents to the plant and wildlife resources of the county; consults with groups and agencies on ways to conserve or improve plant and wildlife resources; assesses requests by community groups and coordinates special projects, designed to improve the natural environment; performs environmental studies; and performs related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Consults with County Parks, Highway and other departments regarding plant and wildlife issues such as roadside management policies, utilization of plant materials and trail layouts; inventories plant and wildlife on sites being considered for acquisition by the County; develops and coordinates environmental education programs at county sites; acts as a resource person for teachers regarding local plant and wildlife; prepares press releases and initiates and participates in media activities to inform the public of plant and wildlife resources and issues; acts as naturalist resource to 4-H clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, YMCA and YWCA and other youth organizations; provides a focal point for information and referral on environmental issues of concern to county residents; performs environmental studies; coordinates or performs projects to resolve issues of concern related to the environment; prepares pamphlets for educational purposes on county activities and resources related to plant and wildlife; provides staff expertise to various county committees and commissions on plant and wildlife resource issues.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: Any combination equivalent to a bachelor's degree in natural science or a related field and two years of experience in a position with conservation, plant and wildlife, or environmental control responsibilities.

Knowledges and Abilities: Knowledge of the flora and fauna native to the Dane County area; knowledge of the principles of natural science; knowledge of audio-visual equipment; knowledge of appropriate and safe use of herbicides; ability to train and supervise the work of others; ability to communicate persuasively and effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to record phenological events, collect and preserve plants, seeds, and insects; ability to deal with County officials, University faculty, youth, and the general public; ability to present educational experiences for a variety of groups; ability to conduct environmental studies and make recommendations to solve issues of environmental concern; knowledge of plant taxonomy; knowledge of wildlife habitat and water quality standards; knowledge of environmental impacts on the natural environment due to development activities.

Special Requirement: Must be certified (or eligible for certification) as a commercial pesticide applicator.