EPA Region 8 Field Operations Student Volunteer

Background:

The integrity of our science is vital to EPA's work to fulfill our mission to protect human health and the environment. The foundation of our decision-making rests on our ability to generate high-quality work from our field activities. Region 8 Field Operations is an organization-wide, cross-office program charged with establishing consistent field activities by implementing EPA's Field Activities Procedure.

Representatives EPA's regulatory programs participate in a high-impact team which is responsible for implementing the Field Activities Procedure. The Field Activities Implementation Team (FIT) members include supervisors, senior scientists and engineers experienced in conducting and/or overseeing field activities. The team works collaboratively to ensure that field activities support defensible Agency decision-making. A few examples of the types of decisions that are made from data generated through field activities are: enforcement actions, emergency spill responses, and site cleanup assessments—whether or not and how to clean up a site.

Position Description:

The student volunteer will have an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the similarities and differences in how field operations are carried out for EPA programs within the Regional Office. Interning with the Region 8 Field Operations program affords the volunteer a bird's eye view of EPA Region 8's high priority programs, such as: CERCLA, Clean Water Act (CWA), NPDES, Oil and Pollution Act (OPA), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Underground Injection Control (UIC), Clean Air Act (CAA), and others. Under the mentorship of the Region 8 Field Operations Lead, the student volunteer will learn how programs document and implement EPA's Field Activities Procedure, including gaining an understanding of how a program addresses the requirements for training, field equipment, records management, field documentation, sample and environmental data management, document control, field activities planning, and reporting.

As part of this effort, the student intern will:

- Participate in the Field Activities Implementation Team;
- Conduct research/reviews to enhance his/her understanding of best practices available within EPA Region 8, the Agency and outside the Agency for ensuring sound science;
- Assist with creating and/or establishing tools and procedures, as appropriate, to support increased knowledge of how to implement the Field Activities Procedure in all programs and offices within Region 8;
- Assist with drafting recommendations for improving a program's compliance with the Field Activities Procedure; and
- Assist with updating Regional Policies for implementing the Field Activities Procedure.

Desired Skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work well in a team setting
- Excellent computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheet creation/management
- Enthusiasm for ensuring high-quality field work