

Volunteer/Unpaid, DENVER, CO – EPA Region 8, Field Operations Intern: Field Quality (CLOSING DATE: 04/05/2019)

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. The Region 8 Field Operations program is responsible for implementing the QA Field Activities Procedure (QAFAP) and overseeing the field quality management system 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: safety of drinking water and other water sources, 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 how field operations are carried out for EPA programs within the Region 8 Headquarters Office in Denver, Colorado. Under the mentorship of the Region 8 Field Operations Lead, the person in this position will gain a policy-level understanding of EPA's requirements for environmental data quality as well as a working knowledge of EPA's cutting-edge Lean Management System and its techniques. As part of their work at EPA, the student intern may:

- Assist with a Lean Management System project to identify efficiencies that could be built into EPA's work processes for the QA Field Activities Procedure implementation.
- Conduct research or reviews to identify best practices and enhance field quality within EPA for ensuring sound science;
- Implement and manage elements of the QA Field Activities Procedure;
- Assist with creating or establishing tools to support the QAFAP; and
- Support QAFAP training and other field quality initiatives.

Desired Skills:

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

Timeline: Intern will be on board for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 4 (there may be an opportunity to extend for a maximum of 6 months depending on circumstances, but this is not assured).

Desired hours per week: Approximately 30

Desired start date: Spring/Summer 2019 (Please Note: From the time of acceptance, there will be a 2-4-week period prior to first day of work while paperwork is completed.)

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