

Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Boating Education Intern (Columbus, Ohio)

Leah Hall – Natural Resource Management (NRM)

ODNR Mission Statement: To ensure a balance between the wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all.



ODNR Logo – Headquarters is in Columbus, but travel and weekend work is often involved.

ODNR has **11 divisions** within the agency! Networking availability is endless and crossing over into other divisions is encouraged!

I found this posting on **Handshake** and applied right away (usually posted in October/November and is very competitive)



Canoe Instructor Training at Deer Creek State Park (Mount Sterling, OH)

- 8-hour course where you are taught how to teach the public basic canoe skills (test and presentation involved)

Day-to-day Activities

Every day was different, which made it fun! Most of my days consisted of:

- grading boating license tests
- assisting with law enforcement paperwork
- collaborating with other interns
- attending meetings
- TRAVELING (3-4 days a week)



The interns I worked with this summer - (there were 62 interns across the state, and 7 of us on the same floor!)



Shadowing the Naturalist at Salt Fork State Park (Cambridge, OH). I think I even spotted Bigfoot in the distance!



Working The Ohio State Fair and posing with Smokey Bear (our mascot)



The Ohio State Fair's Natural Resource park houses many of Ohio's fossils and trees, including this statue of "Daphne" our state fossil fish (Dunkleosteus)



We are pictured here with Director Mary Mertz (middle), and one of our state park naturalists holding a great horned owl.



Left: Working at the Great Mohican Crawfish Hunt (naturalist program designed to educate on stream health and engage the public in their community)



Right: Traveling with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to complete a fish survey on the Stillwater River (Troy, OH)



Left: Holding a Stonecat Madtom at the Stillwater River fish survey (very docile, but their dorsal fin can emit a bee-like sting when threatened)

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