

# **Paid NSF REU Summer Undergraduate Research Position: Urban wildlife health in Seattle, WA**

*UW School of Environment and Forest Sciences - Prugh Lab*

## **Project overview**

The goal of this NSF-funded project is to understand how human socio-economic and environmental factors influence the health of urban carnivores. We are studying coyote diet, parasite loads, and exposure to toxins in neighborhoods throughout Seattle. Rodents are an important food source for coyotes, and they are intermediate hosts for many parasites. We are seeking an undergraduate student to conduct independent research focusing on rodent abundance in Seattle, which could be used as an honors project or capstone project.

## **Job description**

The successful candidate will conduct mentored independent research on rodent abundance while also participating in a variety of lab and fieldwork as part of the larger project. Other duties may include, but are not limited to: collecting coyote scats throughout the Seattle area, assisting with necropsies and dissections at the Burke Museum, assisting in our molecular genetics lab, and examining and identifying parasites under a microscope.

## **Hours & Compensation**

This is a full time (40hr/week) position funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. The position is available for a 10-week period between mid-June and mid-September. Pay is \$19.87/hr.

## **Required Qualifications**

Participants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and currently enrolled as undergraduates at the University of Washington (graduating no earlier than Fall 2023) with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Some coursework in wildlife biology or related topics is required. Must be detail-oriented with the ability to closely follow protocols and accurately record data. Must be in good physical condition, with the ability to carry loads of heavy gear (~30 lbs) and work outside in inclement weather (e.g., hot, cold, rain) under a variable schedule that may include early mornings, late evenings, or weekends. Ability to maintain a positive attitude, communicate effectively, and work both independently and as part of a team is required. Must live in or near Seattle, WA. Must be comfortable driving a work truck in a city.

## **Preferred qualifications**

The ideal candidate has a strong interest in natural history and wildlife conservation, and a high level of responsibility, organization, and motivation. Prior field or lab experience is desirable. Students with backgrounds that are underrepresented in wildlife science are especially encouraged to apply.

## **How to apply**

Email a cover letter, CV, contact information for three references (email and phone), and an unofficial copy of transcripts in a single PDF document to [yhentati@uw.edu](mailto:yhentati@uw.edu) with "REU Position Application" in the title. Applications will be accepted until February 24, 2023.