

Title: Temporary Field Technician – NEON Project – D14 - AZ

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Battelle manages and operates the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) project, which is solely funded by the National Science Foundation. A 30+ year project dedicated to understanding how changes in climate, land use and invasive species impact ecology, the observatory's scientists and engineers are collecting a comprehensive range of ecological data on a continental scale across 20 eco-climatic domains representing US ecosystems. Our teams use cutting-edge technology, including an airborne observation platform that captures images of regional landscapes and vegetation; mobile, relocatable, and fixed data collection sites with automated ground sensors to monitor soil and atmosphere; and trained field crews who observe and sample populations of diverse organisms and collect soil and water data. Once structures are completed, a leading edge cyberinfrastructure will calibrate, store and publish this information. The Observatory includes more than 500+ personnel and is the first of its kind designed to detect and enable forecasting of ecological change at continental scales.

We are currently seeking *Temporary Field Technicians*. These positions are located in Tucson, AZ.

LOCATION –

Domain 14 Temporary Field Technician's primary work location is in Tucson, AZ. Candidate sites are located in two distinctly different ecosystems—the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. The Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER) is located ~30 miles south of Tucson, AZ and consists of uneven, rocky terrain (approximately 3,500' elevation) interspersed with bajadas and washes at the base of the Santa Rita Mountains. Vegetation is a **mixture of grassland and desert scrub** dominated by multiple species of cacti (including saguaro, cholla, and prickly pear), creosote, and mesquite. The Jornada Experimental Range (JORN) is located ~45 miles north of Las Cruces, NM and consists of relatively flat, sandy terrain (approximately 4,500' elevation) that is dominated by native grasses and interspersed with large stands of yucca and mesquite. Sycamore Creek (SYCA) is a dynamic, intermittent desert stream located ~20 miles NE of Phoenix, AZ. Vegetation in the surrounding watershed is primarily Sonoran Desert scrub.

Hazards at all three sites include **spiny plants**, poisonous snakes, stinging insects, high daytime temperatures (in excess of 105 F), dust storms, flash floods, and lightning. When working at JORN and SYCA, overnight travel is mandatory. During trips to JORN, a field house is provided in Las Cruces while hotels are utilized when traveling to SYCA.

Tucson is a **diverse and unique city that hosts a wide variety of restaurants and cultural events**. It is home to the University of Arizona, with an enrollment of 42,000 students. Camping and recreational opportunities among the forested mountain tops of the surrounding sky islands can be accessed less than an hour drive from Tucson. Temporary housing is readily available and relatively inexpensive.

SAMPLING PERIOD –

Start Date: January-March 2019

End Date: September-December 2019

JOB SUMMARY

Temporary Field Technicians *perform* seasonal and periodic sampling of physical, chemical and biological data at one (1)-five (5) field sites, while exercising good judgement and decision-making abilities to interpret protocol requirements. Temporary Field Technicians are assigned an area of primary responsibility within the scope of data collection: botany, entomology, mammalogy (except Puerto Rico and Hawaii), or limnology (except Hawaii).

Field observations and collection are conducted using approximately 30 different protocols and multiple Standard Operating Procedures with varying schedule requirements based on local ecosystem and current field conditions.

Daily and weekly work schedules will fluctuate. Workdays can be up to twelve hours long and may be split with both morning and evening work, with work, at times, beginning at dawn and going through to dusk. Workweeks can include weekends and occasionally may be up to 12 consecutive days.

Individuals are responsible for their own housing and transportation to primary work location.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Performs* field assignments in a variety of conditions (e.g., weather, terrain, diverse assigned biomes, etc.).
- Follows established, standardized field procedures for sample collection; records data from sample collection; and processes samples.
- Records activities and completed work according to Field Operations protocol.
- Follows safety and Field Operations policy and procedures.
- Reports issues with implementation of procedures and coordinates resolution with manager and technicians.
- Assists with routine administrative duties, special projects and other duties as assigned.
- Carries, moves and lifts field supplies (pack weighing up to 40 lbs.) to assigned field site (which involves diverse and uneven terrain).

REQUIRED: EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- High School Diploma. *Some post high school, specialized training or technical certificate may be required.*
- Knowledge of best practices for accurate and repeatable field and laboratory measurements across multiple scientific disciplines. Complex and variable systems require judgment and independent decision-making abilities
- Technical skills using best practices in field and ability to identify aquatic or terrestrial flora and fauna to genus and species.
- Due to the limited number of positions in each domain, technicians must be willing and able to learn and perform procedures and methods outside of the primary responsibility.
- Willingness to perform maintenance and field sampling outdoors in sparsely populated, remote locations, with distances ranging from 1/2 hour to 6 hours from the domain office. Overnight travel, hiking off trail, and wading in water are typical in most locations.

- Ability and willingness to work varied field operations schedules (up to 12+ hours per day), including split-shift, part-time, pre-dawn early mornings, evenings and weekends.
- Ability to hike off trail, long distances, on uneven terrain, at remote locations, in all types of weather, carrying packs weighing up to 40lbs.
- Ability to work on instrument towers ranging in height from 26 feet to 240 feet and at altitudes of up to 11,000 feet (depending on assigned Domain), involving the ability to ascend and descend multiple flights of stairs.
- Ability to withstand exposure to fumes, dust, and noise. Field work may require frequent exposure to toxicodendrons (e.g. poison ivy and poison oak), ticks, biting insects and other natural hazards.
- Proficiency with MS Office Suite (e.g., Excel, Word).
- Ability to follow written and verbal instructions.
- High level of attention to detail and accuracy.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong work ethic and enthusiasm.

**Previous NEON Project field experience will be highly considered
US Citizen or permanent resident only**

Battelle provides employment and opportunities for advancement, compensation, training, and growth according to individual merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, genetic information, disability, veteran-status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable Federal, state, or local law. Our goal is for each staff member to have the opportunity to grow to the limits of their abilities and to achieve personal and organizational objectives. We will support positive programs for equal treatment of all staff and full utilization of all qualified employees at all levels within Battelle.

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