



Research Internships for Undergraduates in Field Biology and Ecology

Program Overview

Starr Ranch Sanctuary is a 4,000-acre preserve located in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. The Ranch is adjacent to Ronald W. Caspers Regional Park to the south and the Cleveland National Forest to the north and east. These three preserves total over 140,000 acres of contiguous, protected wildlands. Starr Ranch Sanctuary provides biologists with a special opportunity to study the native wildlife and plant communities of southern California.

As part of our Starr Ranch Field Ecology Programs (SRFEP), we offer undergraduates an opportunity to participate in either ongoing research or an independent study. Research interns will be involved in study design and implementation, volunteer training, and data collection and analysis. These responsibilities will be carried out under the supervision of a biologist mentor at Starr Ranch. All Starr Ranch biologists hold graduate degrees in biology or ecology.

College credit can be arranged for involvement in SRFEP Research Internships for Undergraduates. Interns may have opportunities to work with state and local agencies and present results to agencies, other biologists, and the public.

Current Starr Ranch Research

- Stream Water Quality Monitoring (biological and chemical components)
- Small Mammal Communities in Exotic vs. Restored Grasslands
- Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship
- Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring in Coastal Sage Scrub
- Invasive Plant Species Control
- Insect Communities in Exotic vs. Restored Grasslands
- Coastal Sage Scrub and Native Grassland Restoration

Requirements for Participation

- Application materials must be submitted.
- Students must commit to at least one semester/quarter period.
- Students must be able to provide their own transportation to and from Starr Ranch (we provide 4WD vehicles).
- A report must be submitted to Starr Ranch upon completion of the internship.

Application Process

To apply for a research internship:

- Send your resume and a cover letter stating your field research interests and what you aim to accomplish.

* Send all application materials and any questions to: Dr. Sandy DeSimone, Director of Research and Education, Starr Ranch Sanctuary, 100 Bell Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 (949) 858-0309
sdesimone@audubon.org



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