

**Volunteer/Unpaid, DENVER, CO – EPA Region 8, Laboratory Student Intern (CLOSING DATE: 04/17/2020)**

**Background:** Harmful algal blooms (HABs) result from excessive growth of algae in the water, which can be influenced by nutrient pollution, sunlight, warm temperatures, and slow-moving water. Certain blooms caused by cyanobacteria may produce cyanotoxins and deplete the water of oxygen, which is detrimental to plants and animals. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified HABs as a regional priority as their size and frequency continue to rise across the country. The laboratory supports both emergency bloom and routine HAB monitoring for the region. This internship is a good opportunity for students to learn about laboratory work, field work environmental protection and this emerging issue.

**Job Description:** The Region 8 laboratory is looking for an intern to support the harmful algal bloom work during the 2020 summer season. Interns will work side by side with analysts in the preparation of coolers, analysis of samples, reporting of results, and field collection. Analyses may include ELISA & Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry for cyanobacteria toxins, High Performance Liquid Chromatography for chlorophyll a and flow/colorimetric analysis for nutrients. Ideally, the candidate will have a strong interest in environmental protection and laboratory work.

*Specific duties may include, but are not limited, to the following:*

- Sample cooler preparation
- Sample collection and/or filtering
- Sample processing and extractions
- Field collection of samples and environmental attributes

*Desired Skills:*

- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Basic Excel and Word
- Ability to work independently
- Strong research skills
- An analytical mind; acute attention to detail

*Knowledge/Experience (optional, but a bonus):*

- Environmental, Biological, Chemistry and/or other Physical Sciences education, experience or coursework.
- Laboratory experience is preferred but not required

**Timeline:** Intern will be on board for a minimum of 2 months, maximum of 4 months.

**Desired hours per week:** 20 hours is preferred; however, this is negotiable.

**Desired start date:** Negotiable, but ideally before June 1, 2020. (Note: From the time of acceptance, there will be a 2-4-week period prior to first day of work while paperwork is completed)

**How to Apply:** Email your transcripts, resume, cover sheet to Melissa Beedle at [beedle.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:beedle.melissa@epa.gov) by Friday, April 17, 2020.

**For More Information:** Melissa Beedle, Region 8 Laboratory Chemist, (303) 462-9482 or [beedle.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:beedle.melissa@epa.gov)

**Human Resources Contact:** Elaine Robles, (303) 312-6194 or [robles.elaine@epa.gov](mailto:robles.elaine@epa.gov)