EXAMPLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR WATER UTILITY INTERNS

GENERAL TRAINING & JOB SHADOWING ACTIVITIES

Here are some tasks that can be assigned to interns to boost your organization’s productivity and provide valuable learning experiences:

PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- Observe valve exercising
- Observe general pump maintenance and repairs
- Observe water main and water service repair and installation
- Observe fire hydrant maintenance, flushing, repair, and installation

WATER TREATMENT

- Learn state water quality standards
- Shadow water treatment plant operator with daily plant readings
- Learn basic knowledge of SCADA operation
- Learn basic knowledge of operator math for plant calculations
- Learn basic knowledge of hydraulics
- Shadow lab technicians and learn to analyze daily water samples in the lab

WATER DISTRIBUTION

- Assist with leak detection
- Perform Julie locates
- Learn water billing system
- Install and program water meters
- Perform excavation restoration

SAFETY AND SITE MAINTENANCE

- Complete site safety training
- Perform PPE inventories
- Perform small equipment operations (lawn mowing, bobcat operations)
LABORATORY
- Collect water distribution sample tests
- Collect water treatment process samples
- Perform laboratory chemical analysis
- Help complete monthly EPA lab reports

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS
- Perform monthly tank and well house inspections
- Review new water construction plans / designs
- Perform field inspections on new construction
- Organize construction project files
- Analyze data from SCADA or other operating records to help track process efficiency or equipment runtime

ADMINISTRATION
- Update G.I.S. system
- Collect GPS field data (water and stormwater structures)
- Perform monthly meter readings
- Learn to send water bills to customers
- Update customer billing database
- Work on the water conservation program
- Help develop customer communications
- Send out backflow survey letters
- Send out meter exchange letters

CERTIFICATION
- Work towards state water treatment certification
- Work towards a commercial driver’s license

For more information contact: Laurie Dougherty
ISAWWA Executive Director
Email: Laurie@isawwa.org
Phone: 866-521-3595 ext. 1