



## Coosa Riverkeeper Environmental Technician 8 Seasonal Positions Available

### 2024 Summer Season Job Description

**WHO WE ARE:** Coosa Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in the Coosa River watershed with an office in Mt. Laurel, AL. We work to protect, restore, and promote the Coosa River and its tributaries in Alabama. Working in over 5,000 square miles of Alabama with 220 miles of the Coosa River, our three programs work to improve water quality and protect public health. We do this by patrolling the waters, educating the public, and advocating for the river and its users. To learn more about our work, please visit [CoosaRiver.org](http://CoosaRiver.org)!

### WHAT IS SWIM GUIDE & FISH GUIDE?

The Coosa River Swim Guide is a weekly bacteriological monitoring program that answers the simple question, “Is it safe to swim?” Jumping into your favorite swimming hole during the summer should be the easiest decision you make all year. That’s why we dedicate our Thursdays & Fridays from Memorial Day until Labor Day to test water quality at the Coosa’s most popular places to swim! Because, no one should have to gamble with their health when it comes to splashing in the river. Through this program, we protect public health, execute best practices in the field and in the lab, and improve water quality--- all while having a good time!

Fish Guide is a program which seeks to answer the question, “are fish safe to eat?” Every major river in Alabama has at least one fish consumption advisory, as determined by the Alabama Department of Public Health. These advisories warn folks to limit or stop consumption of specific fish from specific locations due to known contaminants. Fish Guide is designed to engage and educate anglers about selecting and consuming fish safely. A major tenant of the program is the Coosa River Angler Survey, where folks can tell us a little bit about how they like to fish along with their knowledge of fish consumption advisories and pollution. This is crucial information so we can better serve folks and protect public health.

### JOB DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Technician (ET) has an overall responsibility for the collection of water quality samples in the field while ensuring that the samples collected adhere to our strict QA/QC standards. The ET manages their specific route sample collection as well as the water quality data recorded. The ET will also share responsibilities for lab work such as processing bacteria samples, algae samples and turbidity samples in our lab, as well as managing & organizing data collected in the field. Additionally, the ET has a responsibility to collect angler surveys within the guidelines and QA/QC standards of the 2024 Coosa River Angler Survey. **Your mileage will be reimbursed at the federal rate to cover your mileage and wear/tear on your vehicle during the summer. This is a paid position.**

### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS

- Collect weekly bacteriological samples for a designated route along the Coosa River by vehicle
- Must adhere to strict field and laboratory protocol to ensure samples are not compromised
- Record weekly water quality parameters using water quality meters including: water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), conductivity, total dissolved solids (TDS), pH, turbidity

- Conduct in-person angler surveying at predetermined fishing spots
- Converse with local anglers about their fishing and eating habits
- Process weekly bacteriological water testing for sites along the Coosa River in Alabama
- Process and manage chain of custody forms from field work
- Organize data weekly and analyze water quality parameters for public dissemination
- Assist Watershed Specialist with weekly/monthly lab QA/QC
- Support outreach of the Swim Guide & Fish Guide programs through participation in social media, and attend at least 1 outreach event as a representative of Coosa Riverkeeper

## POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- A reliable form of transportation and proof of car insurance to qualify for mileage reimbursement at the federal rate
- Comfortable working outdoors, lifting 50 lbs, being on the water, and ability to swim
- 2-year or 4-year degree in progress. Preferred but not limited to biology, public health, ecology, conservation, etc.
- Proficient written, verbal, and organizational skills
- Good time management skills and willingness to try new things like fishing, swimming, kayaking
- Must be in proximity to the Coosa River and its lakes in Alabama and willing to drive your own vehicle long distances on a weekly basis.
- All Coosa Riverkeeper employees are expected to follow general employee policies and procedures found in the Intern/Volunteer Policy. In addition to the position responsibilities stated above, these include maintaining a healthy and productive workplace in the office, lab and field, as well as contributing to the overall maintenance and wellbeing of the workspace.

## TIMELINE FOR POSITION

- Start date: May 17th, 2024
- End date: August 30th, 2024
- MUST ATTEND Intern Training (May 17th, 2024) or make special arrangements if unable to attend
- When assigned to Swim Guide the work will be a full day on Thursday and half day on Friday. When assigned to angler surveying the work will be 2 half days. Angler survey days will be predetermined and can fall on any day of the week for full coverage. Other field days (half or full) may be scattered throughout the summer.
- Employees can receive class credit as an internship, if applicable.

## HOW TO APPLY

- Please fill out the application form: <https://forms.gle/NRAmYW19KISzYukYA>
- Please email a copy of your resume and a cover letter to [chad@coosariver.org](mailto:chad@coosariver.org). This must be done for your application to be considered.
- Applications will remain open until the positions are filled.

*Coosa Riverkeeper, Inc. has a policy of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination. Coosa Riverkeeper is committed to maintaining and promoting nondiscrimination in all aspects of recruitment, employment, and program activities. In accordance with state and federal law, Coosa Riverkeeper will not discriminate against an employee worker or applicant for paid work because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, national origin, marital status, disability unrelated to program performance, veteran status or genetic or family medical history, or non-job related factors in hiring, promoting, demoting, training, benefits, transfers, layoffs, terminations, recommendations, rates of pay or other forms of compensation. Coosa Riverkeeper will not tolerate any conduct by an administrator, staff member, intern, or volunteer that constitutes any form of prohibited discrimination.*