



**National Geographic Society
2022 STEM Field Assistant Program
External Internship Opportunity Description
MEXICO**

Position/title

Field Assistant, Species Surveys, Baja California, Mexico

Dates of Internship

Fieldwork: May 1st to July 8th, 2022 (10 weeks)

Cohort Experience: Monthly webinars April - December 2022

Principal Investigator (PI)/Designated Mentor:

Dra. Anny Peralta García, [Fauna del Noroeste, A.C.](#)

Summary of STEM Field Assistant Program

The National Geographic STEM Field Assistant Program seeks to identify highly motivated upper-level undergraduate students or recent graduates from underrepresented or marginalized groups interested in pursuing STEM careers. The program provides hands-on experience to help the student (the “Field Assistant”) build a network of peers and senior scientists who can mentor them and give them the confidence and support to advance in their chosen field. Field Assistants will have an opportunity to be partnered with a Principal Investigator from the National Geographic Explorer community who will serve as a mentor during 8-10 weeks of field research between May - August 2022. Along with the field research, Field Assistants will attend monthly webinars hosted by National Geographic and led by additional members of the National Geographic Explorer community. Webinars will be focused on information or skills needed to succeed in STEM disciplines such as research project design, graduate school applications, and science communication. Recruitment will focus on students local to the country where the fieldwork is taking place and preference will be given to first-generation university students, which we define as students who are the first person in their immediate family to attend university. The Field Assistants will commit to approximately 8-10 weeks of fieldwork between May - August 2022, a series of webinars from May - December 2022, and a grant writing workshop in late 2022. National Geographic will cover field expenses and offer a U.S. \$4,000 scholarship to those in the program.

Summary of Field Research Project

Description: This Field Assistant position gives an opportunity to experience several different research projects, potentially including Red-legged Frog surveys (estimate population size using mark-recapture methods), Pond Turtle surveys (trapping for Pond Turtles to determine population status and threats, taking morphological data on turtles, and surveying for aquatic exotic species), and California Least Tern surveys (participate in habitat improvement activities, monitoring of nesting population of Least Terns once a week to determine breeding success).

Location: Northwestern Baja California, Mexico

Related Field of Study Required

Current undergraduate student working towards a degree in Biology, Ecology, Conservation, or related fields, or recent graduate.



Expected Responsibilities and Learning Opportunities

Programmatic:

- Opportunity to be mentored by a National Geographic Explorer and to virtually meet other Explorers from around the world
- Develop field-based skills in your chosen field
- Participate in a global cohort of Field Assistants and attend monthly virtual meetings
- Learn more about best practices in writing grant applications and write a practice application

Field-based:

- Help organize field surveys (including organizing equipment, permits, data collection, and food logistics)
- Help to do surveys in the field (including camping and working at night)
- Writing reports of field activities
- Data analysis

Expectations, Qualifications, Attitudes and Skills Required

Programmatic:

- Demonstrated and keen interest in pursuing a career in biology, ecology, or conservation
- Enthusiastic willingness to dedicate 8-10 weeks of time learning from and assisting the Principal Investigator during the fieldwork portion of this program
- Enrolled as a rising third or fourth-year undergraduate student in an accredited school or graduated within the past year, as of August 2022
- Responsible for your own health care coverage
- Maintain a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or higher (or the equivalent)
- Willing to commit to a 8-9 month experience, including mentorship activities, webinars, and a grant writing workshop (including writing a preliminary grant proposal)
- Proficient in conversational English, but does not need to be a native English speaker
- Displays traits from the [Explorer Mindset](#) or potential to grow in this mindset

Field-based:

- Experience with wildlife survey techniques is a plus (but not required)
- Vertebrate coursework is a plus (but not required)
- Ability to communicate in Spanish
- Camping experience

APPLY HERE

Deadline: All Applications are due March 7th, 2022

We encourage you to apply even if your experience is not a 100% match with the qualifications. We are looking for someone with relevant interests and experience rather than someone who checks every box on the opportunity description.