Employment Opportunities with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Forest Pest Gypsy Moth Surveyors (Agricultural Technicians)

Job will be posted between February 8-28, 2019. Deadline for Applications: February 28, 2019

Position description: The European gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar) is a human nuisance and causes extensive, costly damage when the caterpillars defoliate North American forests and urban trees. The trapping survey will detect and monitor for gypsy moth, identify potential problem areas, and provide data necessary to make future management decisions to slow the spread of this highly invasive insect into the State of Minnesota.

Job duties include assembling, setting, monitoring and removing up to 800 cardboard detection traps within a designated route. Surveyors collect data using a GPS-enabled tablet (training provided) and report to a lead surveyor. Surveyors work based out of their home office which is close to or within their survey route. A reliable vehicle is necessary for driving survey routes. Mileage is reimbursed.

Salary range: Step 1 base pay: $14.75/hr.

Areas Hiring: See map.

Schedule: See map.

Southern Region: Mandatory training in Saint Paul, MN on May 22nd & 23rd. Position ends August 30th.
Northern Region: Mandatory training in Cloquet, MN on June 4th & 5th. Position ends October 10th.

These are temporary, intermittent positions; however work days will typically be as follows:
Southern Region: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be approximately 3 weeks of intermittent scheduled unpaid leave during the season for approximately 12 weeks of employment.
Northern Region: Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There will be approximately 4 weeks of intermittent scheduled unpaid leave during the season for approximately 14 weeks of employment.

Qualifications: Minimum Qualifications:
1. High school diploma or GED.
2. Must possess and maintain an active/valid driver's license with an acceptable motor vehicle record subject to review and must maintain liability insurance on your own vehicle if using it for work purposes. If selected for an interview, you will be required to provide info from your driver's license and proof of vehicle insurance.

Preferred Qualifications:
1. A background in biology or related field.
2. Previous field survey and data collection experience.
3. The ability to work well independently with minimal supervision and with others as a team.
4. The ability to prioritize, set goals and meet deadlines.
5. Good interpersonal skills and ability to explain assigned activities to any interested party.
6. The ability to navigate using paper maps and/or GPS-enabled mapping applications.
7. Attention to detail.
8. Good written communication to record all relevant data and report findings.

Physical Requirements
1. The ability to transport up to 20 pounds by hand.
2. The ability to drive for prolonged periods of time.
3. The ability to drive on all kinds of roads up to 250 miles per day.
4. The ability to get in and out of a vehicle up to 60 times per day.
5. The ability to quickly and efficiently navigate to and move to survey sites (25-60 per day) within a designated route to set, monitor and remove traps under various weather conditions and terrain. Some positions will require extensive movement in rough wooded terrain.

To apply: Apply on-line at http://www.mn.gov/careers. Search for “gypsy moth” or Job ID: 29768. If you are unable to apply online, please contact the job information line at 651.259.3637. For additional information about the application process, go to http://www.mn.gov/careers.

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