

Internship at the Larimer County Department of Public Health and Environment

I have had the pleasure of working as an unpaid intern for the Larimer County Department of Public Health and Environment on two separate occasions. If you are looking for an internship that will give you well-rounded experience in multiple realms of Environmental Health, this is it. Even though it was unpaid, it paid for itself with the valuable experience I obtained.

During the internship, I have had the opportunity to gain experience in Air Quality, Water Quality, Septic Inspections, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Zoonotic Disease Surveillance, Environmental Planning, and Consumer Protection including retail food inspections, childcare facilities, and summer camps. The team at LCDPHE was very willing to let me tag along with them on anything that I was interested in learning about and to share their wealth of knowledge.

I thoroughly enjoyed the field-work which included accompanying inspectors on inspections, whether it was a restaurant, or enjoying the scenery up the Poudre Canyon to look at septic installations. One of the responsibilities of the intern for the summer is to do the Estes Park Water Run every Tuesday. A county vehicle is provided and it was a great experience to meet the residents and business owners in Estes along with taking water samples to submit for testing. Another opportunity I was given was to train with the State of Colorado Public Health and Environment in Air Quality which resulted in being able to officially perform CFC Inspections and spent time solo in the field doing so.

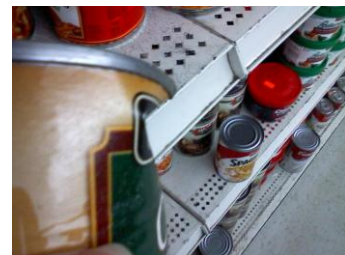
Summer is a very busy time at LCDPHE. There are many things going on in all the departments and for a self-motivated individual, this internship can provide a wealth of experiences. As an unpaid internship there are scholarships available and it does qualify for Americorps Service.



Smoking a hood.



Foods found out of temperature....



Dented cans found during an inspection.



Fruit flies in liquor bottles.



Example of a septic system



Example leach field.