



## Student Sanitarian Oakland County Health Division

Interns at Oakland County Health Division are called Student Sanitarians. Each summer, the division looks to hire six students to work for the summer. Oakland County is the third richest county in the nation. It was definitely an adventure to be in a totally new place and not knowing a single person on that side of the country. I lived in a college dorm with several other interns for different companies in the area and with a couple of my fellow interns.

For this position, you need to provide your own dependable vehicle to get you from place to place. Our primary responsibilities were to collect weekly beach water samples from assigned public and private lakes and take them to the lab to be tested for E. coli. If tested positive we had to close the beach and continue to collect samples until there were safe swimming levels. I collected three samples from each of the 21 lakes I was assigned. We got to wear extremely sexy and heavy rubber waders that were way too big.

Once we collected all of our samples we inspected public outdoor swimming pools and approved them for operation. The county had over 900 swimming pools to inspect. This job seemed like an endless tease at times because the weather there is so hot and humid. I felt like I was constantly near water but could never go in because I was working.

Once we put a dent in the pool inspections, we were allowed to shadow the sanitarians on their daily duties... restaurant inspections, temporary vending, wells, septic fields, mosquito catching, campground inspections, etc. One day, I got to watch a well being installed at Kid Rock's house for the beach he was building in his front yard. Yes, I saw him too.

I feel that an internship at any health department can help to experience several aspects of public health. If you are unsure of what specific field you would like to make your career out of, public health can give you a look into several different fields. You are constantly on the go, inspecting different sites and meeting new people.



Kid Rock's soon to be beach



Septic Field

