

Range Safety Officer: Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife - 4 Positions

Location: West Kingston, Rhode Island

Hourly Rate: \$24

Classification: LIMITED TERM

Start Date: March 27, 2023

End Date: November 3, 2023

Duration: Seasonal employment, three years, with possible opportunity for extension

Recruitment: Internal/External

Application deadline: February 17, 2023

POSITION SUMMARY

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is looking for capable, knowledgeable individuals to maintain a safe and inviting shooting environment at the Great Swamp Shooting Range (GSSR).

As a Range Safety Officer (RSO), you will be directly responsible for the safety of all GSSR patrons. Excellent interpersonal and verbal communication skills are a must. The Range Safety Officer (RSO) is accountable for executing GSSR policies and procedures and as such, must be able to perform in a fast-paced, high-volume environment while remaining constantly vigilant to ensure proper and safe firearm handling.

Upkeep and regular maintenance of the facility and grounds will be the responsibility of all RSOs, with scheduled and/or rotating chore assignments to be decided collectively upon hire.

OVERVIEW

Work independently in a joint capacity with the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Fish and Wildlife to provide Range Safety Officer services to DFW. The incumbent will work out of RIDEM's Great Swamp Shooting Range in West Kingston, Rhode Island. The work area will be limited to the Great Swamp Management area. This position will be classified as a seasonal, limited-term employee of the WMI. Direct supervision of day-to-day activities will be provided by the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife.

DUTIES

- Public Safety
 - Maintain diligent supervision of the GSSR facility, especially during periods of live fire.
 - Ensure unwavering control over the safety of all range patrons by observing all users and respectfully, but immediately, addressing any behavior that could be considered unsafe.
 - Stop dangerous safety violations with swift, respectful action.
 - Correct unsafe behaviors to prevent accidents.
 - Secure range facility and equipment from unauthorized access.
- Range Information
 - Conduct regularly scheduled "Range Safety Briefings" to introduce groups of new and renewing range applicants to the facility and all current respective policies.

- Encourage and inform prospective range users of the permitting process when approached for information while on duty.
- Clearly and consistently explain range policies and refer to supervisors when faced with novel questions or concerns.
- Range Maintenance
 - Inspect and secure down-range areas before and after daily shooting hours.
 - Maintain the landscaping, including but not limited to mowing (both with a walk-behind and ride-on mower), weed-whacking, hand weeding, applying organic topical herbicides, and hand watering small gardens during drought periods.
 - Maintain the shooting facilities, including but not limited to sweeping, dusting, scrubbing, vacuuming, raking, and using gasoline-powered blowers.
 - Maintain and replace shooting range consumables by using supplies such as portable battery-powered tools and dimensional lumber.
 - Protect or store facility equipment during periods of high wind, rain, or snow.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A High School diploma or GED
- At least 21 years of age at the time of hire
- RSO certification—NRA or USCCA (completable within 30 days of appointment when combined with satisfactory prior experience; equivalent military or police service may substitute)
- CPR/First-Aid/AED certification and Stop-the-Bleed certification are both strongly encouraged (completable online)

Required Skills:

- Knowledge of modern firearm action types and general functional differences
- General knowledge of muzzle loading firearms and black powder/black powder substitutes
- General knowledge of archery equipment, both recreational and hunting
- Experience diagnosing firearm malfunctions and using appropriate safety precautions
- Experience clearing firearm or ammunition malfunctions, and/or knowing when it is unsafe to proceed without professional assistance
- Strong verbal communication and interpersonal de-escalation skills
- Personal confidence to be decisive and assertive when necessary for public safety
- Trustworthy and possessing the highest level of personal and professional integrity and quality standards.
- Able to work a two-week repeating schedule, with shifts expected on both weekdays and weekends. Management and all RSOs determine a mutually agreeable yearly schedule prior to hiring.

Desired Skills:

- Experience as a working RSO, either in the public or private sector.
- Ability to traverse and climb range berms in order to set up a winch-assisted, remote-operated slope mower. Range berms are approximately 30 feet tall, 30 degrees steep, and covered in a mix of grasses, assorted weeds, and loose soil.

- Familiarity with RI Fish and Wildlife's general duties and programs.
- Familiarity with local hunting regulations, games, and methods of take.

Conditions for Appointment: The incumbent must be physically qualified to perform assigned duties in a variety of different environments, including an office environment, field environment, rugged terrain, and various adverse weather conditions (extreme heat, cold, rain, snow, sleet, etc.), and must be able to lift at least 50 pounds.

Exposure to airborne and surface lead contamination is expected. No laboratory blood testing is provided as part of the employment terms. Surface and hand sanitation supplies are provided.

Satisfactory completion of a criminal background check is required.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications must be submitted on or before the application deadline of February 17, 2023, to be considered. Send a cover letter outlining your interest and qualifications and a resume to Scott Travers, Hunter Education Coordinator, Scott.Travers@dem.ri.gov. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For questions about WMI Limited Term Employee terms, contact:

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