

ECO: Environmental and Conservation Organization

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Water Quality Committee Intern

ECO's Water Quality Committee strives to protect Henderson County's six pristine watersheds through monitoring and testing over thirty streams. As a result of this monitoring, the Committee can educate the public on becoming better stewards of their streams. Stream health is monitored through biomonitoring (to evaluate how well streams can sustain life), chemical analysis (to assess heavy metals, nutrients, sediment load and more), adopt-a-stream programs (to work with existing community organizations and churches to become the "eyes and ears" of their streams), bacterial monitoring (which watchdogs wastewater plants and other potential sources of harmful bacteria), and Big Sweep, the state's largest watershed cleanup initiative.

The newest innovation, SWAT team (Stream Watch Action Teams) follows up on waterways that have been flagged as problematic based on the monitoring programs listed above. Students and others who are interested in waterway protection and watershed education are encouraged to intern with ECO to learn not only about the science of water quality but also how citizens can help promote clean water, water protection policies and water conservation. The results of this work will be found in stronger policies that protect aquatic life, water supply and restrict activities that have a deleterious effect on our waterways.

Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO) in Hendersonville welcomes your interest and applications for student internships. ECO is an environmental advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the natural heritage of Henderson County and the mountain region as an effective voice for the environment. We fulfill this mission by promoting green infrastructure, protecting water quality, promoting recycling and educating the public on renewable energy options and energy conservation. Each of these mission areas offers opportunities for unique student internship experiences. Please contact us for more information.