

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER TRAINEE

POSITION CODE: 09345
Effective: 5-1-04

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under immediate supervision, for a period of 12 to 18 months, receives Conservation Police Officer training consisting of 800 or more hours of comprehensive classroom instruction and individualized counseling; supplemented by additional field instruction and on-the-job experience in providing for public safety and professional enforcement of all Illinois Compiled Statutes with emphasis in enforcement of laws regularly administered by the Department of Natural Resources in the areas of natural resource management.

Incumbents who do not successfully complete the prescribed Conservation Police Officer training and field training officer programs will be rejected during the training period.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Receives classroom and on-the-job training in state and federal laws, including the statutes, state and federal administrative laws, e.g., Criminal Code, Motor Vehicle Code; receives additional instruction on the enforcement of state and federal Conservation laws while ensuring public safety and controlling the use of Illinois regulated natural resources, e.g., Endangered Species Act, Fish Code, Wildlife Code, Dangerous Drug Abuse Act, Boat and Snowmobile Acts, Forest Products Transportation Act, Park and Nature Preserve Acts, Timber Buyers Acts; federal regulations, including Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Threatened and Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Bald Eagle Protection Act, and Airborne Hunting Act.
2. Receives training in the technical application of investigative procedures, gathering and maintenance of evidence, arrest procedures and other relevant judicial processes; conducting investigations of violations and documenting and presenting evidence to the State's attorney to obtain search and/or arrest warrants; develops proficiency in providing testimony as a complainant or a state's witness in criminal or civil court; develops a working knowledge of procedures for issuing citations, effecting physical arrests, use of deadly force, posting bond, ensuring individual's constitutional rights, observes coordination of joint law enforcement efforts with other police officers; receives instruction concerning the moral and ethical considerations in the professional use of these procedures as a statutory peace officer.

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER TRAINEE (Continued)

3. Receives training in the use of law enforcement weapons (hand guns, shotguns, batons), Natural Resources law enforcement equipment (watercraft, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles), pursuit driving, two-way radio communications; receives instructions and effective oral and written communications, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, officer survival skills through simulated exercises and field training, e.g., self-defense, weapons retention, disarming and physical restraint of violators, and adverse environmental conditions.
4. Receives classroom training in the identification of common native aquatic life, wildlife-game, non-game, forest and plants, and 200 endangered and threatened species, and in the identification of the most common imported species.
5. Receives training in how to effectively convey interpretations to the public of applicable state and federal laws; receives instruction in basic public relations to effectively represent the department and the division.
6. Participates in simulated and actual field enforcement activities under the supervision of a senior police officer; receives daily oral and weekly written critiques of field performance during the department's required field training period and utilizes those critiques to improve performance as a Conservation Police Officer Trainee.
7. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

At the time of hire, the person must hold a 2-year degree and 3 consecutive years of experience as a police officer with the same law enforcement agency,

OR

A 4-year degree.

At the time of hire, the person must demonstrate the ability to swim at the following competency level:

- a) swim 200 yards continuously using a breast stroke or front crawl stroke
- b) tread water for 3 minutes, and
- c) retrieve an object from a 10 foot depth

Requires possession of an appropriate valid driver's license.

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER TRAINEE (Continued)

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires elementary knowledge of equipment and how it's lawfully used by outdoor recreation participants; e.g., fishing, trapping, hunting, boating and snowmobiling equipment.

Requires elementary knowledge of native aquatic life, wildlife, forest and plant species and related natural environments.

Requires ability to pass a comprehensive physical ability test.

Requires ability to pass police hazardous duty physician's medical examination.

Requires ability to pass a medical psychological assessment.

Requires absence of any prior criminal history record, i.e., felony or major misdemeanor.

Requires ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

Requires ability to become knowledgeable about various statutory and administrative laws.

Requires effective verbal and written communications skills with an ability to learn the preparation of comprehensive written and oral reports, proper writing and issuance of citations.

Requires ability to effect physical arrest.

Requires ability to effectively provide professional court testimony.

Requires ability to maintain and establish satisfactory working relationships with the general public, other law enforcement officers, conservation and civic organizations, and other department employees.

Requires ability to develop a working knowledge of investigations and arrest, confiscation and handling of evidence, and prosecution procedures.

Requires ability to become proficient in the operation and maintenance of equipment necessary to perform the assigned duties of a Conservation Police Officer, i.e., motor vehicles, bicycles, motor cycles, two-way radios, mobile data computer, watercraft, outboard motors, firearms, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, radar speed meters, sonar depth finders.

Requires ability to understand the utilization and operation of recreational and commercial equipment relating to activities under the jurisdiction of the department, e.g., traps, bow and arrow devices, various fishing nets, and related equipment.

Requires ability to become proficient in identification of native aquatic life, wildlife, forest, and plant species and related natural habitat.

Requires ability to explain division and department objectives, policies, procedures, programs and services.

Requires ability to work under adverse environmental conditions.

Requires capability of maintaining required physical ability standards.

Requires ability to become knowledgeable in officer survival skills.