

Biological Technician at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

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Smithsonian Environmental
Research Center

By [J. Patrick Megonigal](#)

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9/14/2022

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is searching for a Biological Technician to support and enhance experimental research in the Biogeochemistry laboratory. This is a 6-month, full-time position that are scheduled to begin in Nov 2022. We seek a motivated individual to contribute to a multidisciplinary research team centered on coastal wetland responses to global change. Applicants must be independent, detail-oriented, organized, and able to contribute to several related but distinct projects at once. In addition, applicants must at times be able to lift heavy equipment (roughly 50 pounds), work outside in challenging environmental conditions, and stand for many hours to process samples. Qualifications include experience working in a field and laboratory settings.

To apply, please email a single PDF that includes a copy of your curriculum vitae or resume, a 1 page cover letter describing how your experience and interests meet the requirements of this position, and a list of 3 professional references (with email and phone contact information included) to Pat Megonigal (megonigalp@si.edu (<mailto:megonigalp@si.edu>)).

Applications will start being reviewed immediately and will be accepted until the position is filled.

SERC is located in Edgewater, MD ub the DC-Baltimore metropolitan area. The Smithsonian Institution is an equal opportunity employer; individuals who are underrepresented in the scientific field are encouraged to apply.

The SERC community recognizes the value of diversity in promoting innovative science and creative solutions, and we strongly encourage candidates from all backgrounds to apply. We recognize that each applicant for this role will bring unique skills, knowledge, experiences and background to this position. The Smithsonian Institution is an equal opportunity employer, committed to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race/ethnicity, national origin, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital/parental/caregiver status and disability.



Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Additional Info

Job Type : Full-Time


Education Level : Associate Degree, Bachelors Degree, Masters


Experience Level : Entry Level

Job Function : General

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Get In Touch!

 (608) 310-7855 (tel:6083107855)

 7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102

 Send SWS an Email (<mailto:membership@sws.org>)


Additional Resources

[Terms and Conditions \(/terms-and-conditions\)](/terms-and-conditions)

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[Contact Us \(https://members.sws.org/contact-us\)](https://members.sws.org/contact-us)


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SWS

Thea Yin

Narragansett, RI 02882 • (808) 990-2019 • soktheayin@uri.edu

October 5, 2022

Patrick Megonigal
647 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037-0028
(443) 482-2200
megonigalp@si.edu

Dear Mr. Megonigal,

I am expressing my interest in the position as a Biological Technician. I found the posting on the Society of Wetland Scientists job board. After reviewing the description, my background and experience will be of great value to you and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

My background includes six years in the United States Navy. I have worked with many teams performing separate tasks to meet the same goal in both simulated and unsimulated training environments. I am independent, detail oriented, organized, and can contribute to several related but distinct projects at once. With my background in the U.S. Navy, including my past experience as an APAIS Field Technician, I have worked extensively outdoors in challenging weather conditions. I have field and laboring experience as a laboratory assistant with the Watershed Watch and as a GIS Student Assistant.

I am excited at the prospect of being involved in research with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. I look forward to hearing from you to further discuss how my experience and qualifications can be valuable to you and the research team. I can be reached by phone at 808-990-2019 or by email at soktheayin@uri.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thea Yin

Thea Yin

Narragansett, RI 02882 • (808) 990-2019 • soktheayin@uri.edu

OBJECTIVE

To secure a position as Biological Technician at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

EDUCATION

- University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
 - Environmental Science & Management, B.S. Graduating May 2023
- Center for Surface Combat Systems Great Lakes, Great Lakes, IL 2011-2012
- AEGIS Training and Readiness Center, Dahlgren, VA 2012-2013

EXPERIENCE

The Farmer's Daughter October 2021-Present
South Kingstown, RI

Annals Greenhouse Department/Cashier

- Complete point of sales transactions and assisting customers with carrying and loading of heavy items weighing up to 50 lbs
- Provide positive customer experience by understanding questions and needs and offering solutions
- Maintain and replenish greenhouses and front of farm as needed
- Performs related work as required

Facilities Operations October 2021-October 2022
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Geographic Information System Assistant

- Reviewed and update GIS datasets representing the University's utility systems, including digitizing new features, editing existing features, and establishing links to photographs and construction plans
- Collected and process high-accuracy GNSS data
- Assisted with other related tasks as identified

Watershed Watch October 2020-January 2021
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Laboratory Assistant

- Logged water quality data from various surface water resources across Rhode Island, including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, streams, and the marine environment
- Conducted and record alkalinity and pH tests on water samples

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission February 2020-August 2020
Jamestown, RI

APAIS Field Technician

- Served as the primary point of contact for the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDMF) and recreational saltwater fishermen
- Conducted face-to-face interviews with marine recreational anglers at assigned fishing sites in all weather conditions
- Collected demographic information, fishing habits of anglers, identify fish, measure and record weight and length of fish when possible

- Updated Microsoft Excel database and program's internet database upon completion of assignments
- Trained in and adhere to documented Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) procedures and state regulations
- Worked effectively as a team and independently

Gardner Crops Research Center
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

May 2018-July 2018

Research Assistant

- Cultivated and maintain various plots using different methods of sustainable agriculture to identify high yield practices
- Assisted with other related tasks as identified

United States Navy

June 2011-May 2017

AEGIS Fire Controlman Second Class Petty Officer

- Held Secret security clearance
- Managed work center of 6 Radar technicians to perform corrective and preventative maintenance of the AN/SPY-1D Radar with strict adherence to Naval safety regulations and protocols
- Awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for successfully repairing three grounded line filters in the AN/SPY-1D transmitter correcting a Category 2 Casualty Report allowing work center to maintain a 99.7% availability during Commander 5th Fleet (C5F) deployment
- Consistent quality maintenance on AN/SPY-1D Radar throughout C5F deployment resulted in six consecutive recognitions on Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme Division (NSWCPHD) SPY Honor Roll for outstanding radar performance
- Troubleshooting and repairs of two Driver/Pre-Driver (D/PD) and a Final Power Amplifier (FPA) Cross Field Amplifier (CFA) Electronic Switch Assembly casualty saved the Navy \$83,240 and prevented three Category 3 Casualty Reports

INTERNSHIP

Habitat Restoration - Save The Bay, Providence, RI

November 2019

- Assist Director of Habitat Restoration and fellow intern(s) in creating seven new transects at various ongoing restoration sites in Rhode Island in preparation for developing new runnels to facilitate proper drainage of salt marsh, restoring native vegetation, and prohibiting the spread of invasive *Phragmites australis*.
- Collect data, performed vegetation identification and monitoring, water table depth monitoring, transplanting, and maintenance of established sites such as removing goose netting and clearing runnel blockages

AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS

- National Defense Service Medal, 2011
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, 2013
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary, 2013
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, 2013
- Navy Achievement Medal, 2013
- Good Conduct Medal
- Letter of Commendation in recognition of service to Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) at Training Support Center Great Lakes, IL
- Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS), 2014

CERTIFICATION

- University of Rhode Island Master Gardener (In Progress, January 2022-April 2022)
- American Red Cross Adult, Child and Baby First Aid/CPR/AED, July 2022
- AmpSurf Instructor, July 2020
- PADI Open Water Diver, July 2019

VOLUNTEER

- AmpSurf New England, Certified Adaptive Surf Instructor, August 2017 - Current
- Rhode Island Parrot Rescue, April 2017 - May 2017
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 152, January 2019 - Current
- URI Student Veterans Organization, January 2019 - January 2022
- Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) Great Lakes Chapter 2011-2012