



## About Us

Nestled within the Kittatinny Ridge alongside the Lehigh River, Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit environmental education center and wildlife refuge. LGNC is the *first and only environmental education center in the U.S. created from a federal Superfund site*. Each autumn, LGNC conducts the Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count at a picturesque outcropping atop the Kittatinny, about ten miles from our headquarters.

LGNC was founded in 1986 as Wildlife Information Center, Inc. (WIC). Under the mentorship of Maurice Broun, the pioneering curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, WIC's founder, Donald S. Heintzelman, began the Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count in 1961 during a time when raptor *hunting* was still more common than raptor watching. Heintzelman managed the count for almost 40 years thereafter and continually advocated for raptor conservation through his numerous publications, as well as his work on behalf of WIC. With the support of our many dedicated volunteers and annual Hawk Count Intern, LGNC continues to carry on Don Heintzelman's legacy each year through the hawk count at Bake Oven Knob — one of the longest running raptor migration studies in the world. Visit [lgnc.org](http://lgnc.org) to learn more.

## Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count Internship Program

Since 1999, LGNC has recruited a wildlife research intern with responsibilities including managing the daily hawk count at Bake Oven Knob and entering data from the count on [hawkcount.org](http://hawkcount.org). The Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count Internship position is available each autumn from August through the end of November.

## Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count Internship Job Description

**Type of Position:** Seasonal, Full-time Wildlife Research Internship

**Number of Positions:** 1

**Date:** August 14 through November 29, 2024

**Hours:** Average 40 hours/week

**Compensation:** \$5,000 stipend, plus mileage reimbursement and housing

### Internship Responsibilities:

Under the guidance of LGNC staff, the intern will be involved with research work five days per week for an average of 40 hours per week. Responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Conducting the daily hawk count Mondays through Fridays (weather permitting) at Bake Oven Knob in Lehigh County, PA. The expected daily shift is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the intern will be notified of any variations to the start and end time throughout the season. NOTE that the intern will need to work on holidays, including Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day.

- Recording and electronically reporting raptor migration, hawk watch volunteer, and hawk watch visitor data.
- Educating site visitors about raptor migration, identification, and conservation and engaging visitors at LGNC's Migration Fest on Saturday, September 21, 2024.
- Following safety policy and procedures, in particular with regard to hawk watch visitors.
- Writing an end-of-season data report and reflection for publication in LGNC's *American Hawkwatcher* magazine.
- Before the internship begins, learning more about the Bake Oven Knob Hawk Count on [hawkcount.org: https://bit.ly/BOK\\_Hawk\\_Watch](https://bit.ly/BOK_Hawk_Watch).

**Work Environment and Physical Demands:** The work of the intern involves daily hiking over rough terrain and prolonged standing. Field observations include exposure to extreme temperatures, inclement weather, and occasional swarming insects at various times during the migration season.

### **Applicant Qualifications:**

- The applicant must be a responsible researcher possessing a high level of attention to detail with the ability able to keep organized, detailed records of observations.
- The applicant must have strong verbal and interpersonal skills to communicate with, and build a sense of community among, visitors and volunteers.
- The applicant must also be able to follow written and verbal communications.
- Raptor identification skills or hawk count experience are desired but not required. The applicant must study raptor identification before the internship begins. Additional training will be provided at the start of the internship.

### **Equipment Needed:**

- Good quality binoculars and raptor identification guides. LGNC can provide these if needed.
- The intern will also *need their own vehicle* to travel to and from the lookout each day (18 miles round trip).
- Sturdy shoes are recommended.

**Housing:** LGNC will provide housing in our Osprey House headquarters. The Center will provide utilities and wi-fi. There is a fully equipped kitchen and bathroom, but there are currently no laundry facilities onsite.

**NOTE:** This project can be part of a student's undergraduate or graduate research work at the discretion of the college/university. The intern may be matriculated and earning credits, on a leave of absence, or post-graduate.

**How to Apply:** Email résumé and cover letter to: [mail@lgnc.org](mailto:mail@lgnc.org). Include any information pertinent to wildlife research and hawk identification skills.

**Application Deadline:** March 15, 2024. Virtual interviews to be scheduled in March or April 2024.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to schedule a Zoom meeting to learn more about the internship program, please contact Executive Director, Chad Schwartz, at [chad.schwartz@lgnc.org](mailto:chad.schwartz@lgnc.org) or 610-760-8889.