

Meghan M. McDonald  
Junior English major, Environmental Studies minor  
Birmingham-Southern College

This proposal is to request funding for a part-time internship with the Freshwater Land Trust for ten weeks from the week of June fourth through the week of August tenth, 2007. The funding would support a three-day workweek in the position of assistant to the Director of Development. It would also be covering commuting costs and summer room and board at Birmingham-Southern College.

The Freshwater Land Trust, established in 1996, works to enhance water quality and preserve open space by acquiring, restoring, conserving, and connecting land areas in Jefferson County, Alabama, that are critical in the conservation of waterways. The Land Trust also aids in developing some of its acquired lands as community recreational areas. The Land Trust works with governments, businesses, and individuals to find ways to protect the land, the landowner's interests, and the economic growth of communities. To date, the Land Trust has acquired 3,500 acres that preserve over 60 miles of waterways in Jefferson County.

The internship to which I have been assigned will focus on identifying funding sources and other marketing and administrative duties. It will involve field work as needed, as well as participation in summer Land Trust events. I will work three full days per week. I am requesting \$1,375. I hope to have other funds from a patron of Birmingham-Southern, but this is not yet confirmed. I am asking to receive, if possible, \$250 up front to help pay for housing, and an allocation of \$112.50 per week after that.

This internship with the Freshwater Land Trust would be an excellent way for me to combine the knowledge I have gained from the Environmental Studies courses—from ecology to public policy and environmental economics—with practical experience. This job will also allow me to draw from the writing and communication skills that I have sharpened through many English classes. Also, I am more familiar with advocacy-based environmental organizations, so I look forward to learning about a non-advocacy, business-like approach to conservation. I hope to be able to tie this experience in with my senior project for the Environmental Studies minor. The schedule of this internship also leaves me time to volunteer at the Alabama Wildlife Center, the largest wildlife rehabilitation center in the state. This experience will also be very beneficial to me.

This internship would be a valuable experience to me in the long-term because of my career goals. I plan on attending graduate school for both landscape architecture and environmental management. I would like to eventually own a landscaping firm and specialize in using native Alabama plants. I am also interested in starting some sort of organization that works to restore (and possibly acquire) Alabama ecosystems that have been invaded by non-native plant species. Thus, seeing how the Freshwater Land Trust conducts its mission will be helpful to me in my career aspirations. In the short term, the internship experience could help me to better understand the material I learn in classes, and to get better connected to people and organizations working for goals that I strongly support.

**MEGHAN MCDONALD**  
E-mail: mmmcdona@bsc.edu

**Present Address**

Box 541303, 900 Arkadelphia Rd.  
Birmingham, AL 35254  
(256) 390-6692

**Permanent Address**

5960 U.S. Hwy. 411  
Gadsden, AL 35901  
(256) 390-6692

**OBJECTIVE:** Environmental Summer Internship

**EDUCATION:** Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama  
Bachelor of Arts: Graduation 2008  
Major: English Minor: Environmental Studies  
Current GPA: 3.9/4.0  
Gadsden High School, Gadsden, Alabama Graduated 2004

**SKILLS:** Computer proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, E-mail, and Internet  
Proficiency in skills required in office environment and operation of office  
Machines including: filing, photocopy, fax, telephone, word processing

**EXPERIENCE:** Birmingham-Southern College Bookstore, Birmingham, AL 2004-present  
Cashier

Episcopal Day School, Gadsden, AL Summers 2005-2006  
Day camp worker, landscaper

Horse and Heart Riders, Gadsden, AL Summers 2000-2002  
Stable hand

**COLLEGE ACTIVITIES/HONORS:**

Service Learning  
Mortarboard  
Sigma Tau Delta  
University Christian Fellowship  
Students Offering Support (peer counseling/orientation staff; secretary)  
Environmental Studies Committee student representative  
Leading Edge Institute  
National Merit Scholarship  
Dean's List

**HIGH SCHOOL HONORS/ACTIVITIES:**

National Honor Society  
Beta Club  
Marching/Concert/Jazz Band

**INTERESTS:** Nature, Gardening, Hiking, Traveling, Art, Writing, Acting, Horseback  
Riding

**References and transcripts available upon request**