



WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

WARDEN RECRUITMENT



DNR Conservation Warden Marie Tuchscherer during field training at Horicon Marsh.

What It's Like As A Warden In Training

Have you ever wondered what it's like for our new wardens in training? Warden Marie Tuchscherer began the warden academy in January 2024 and has spent this year learning, practicing and fine-tuning her skills.

Marie grew up in Wisconsin, where her family instilled a love for the outdoors, camping, hiking, fishing and biking. She has many memories of ice fishing on Lake

Winnebago. She recalled meeting a DNR pilot who landed the plane on the ice near her home and then spoke with anglers and residents.

Marie attended UW-Madison, where her interest in natural resources guided her education inside and outside the classroom. She majored in Wildlife Ecology and continued learning about our natural world.

“I was interested in science and biology, but I also wanted to work with people,” Warden Marie said.

She became the leader of the student Outdoor Club on campus, helping others to experience and explore the outdoors. She also participated in a mentored pheasant hunt organized by the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program. She began exploring the conservation warden career.

“It seemed like it could be such a unique and fun job, and it combined many of my interests. I realized the warden career was a good fit for my skillsets and would allow me to help people and continue learning about the things I cared about.”

Warden Marie completed the 720-hour DNR law enforcement academy in mid-2024 and is in field training. She is working one-on-one with more experienced conservation wardens around the state, getting practice interacting with the public, enforcing laws and learning more about the many natural resources we help manage. She also regularly regroups with her class from the academy to attend specialized training weeks on topics such as large game hunting enforcement, waterfowl enforcement and boat patrol operations.

“I enjoyed the academy and the opportunity to develop my skills,” Warden Marie said. “I appreciated all the unique topics, like tactical skills and emergency vehicle operations, that not many people get a chance to experience.”

She acknowledged the intense training process is a big commitment for new wardens, taking them away from home quite a bit. But she said getting into this rewarding career path was worth the time and effort. The journey has been fun.

“It’s a cool learning environment, and you get to spend a lot of time learning with your classmates. We made some great memories and friendships that will help us throughout our careers.”

Warden Marie will begin working in her new field station, Vilas County, at the end of this year.

2025 Warden Hiring Process

We anticipate opening another conservation warden hiring process in the spring of 2025. Wardens successful in that hiring process will begin employment with the DNR in early 2026. Now is a great time to gain life experience, prepare for

physical standards and practice your interview skills! We encourage you to contact a [warden recruiter](#) with any questions and set up a ride-along.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A WARDEN

Working For The DNR

The DNR employs a large, diverse workforce throughout our state. We seek employees with a strong customer service philosophy and an attitude of helpfulness.

Since 1879, conservation wardens have been proudly protecting the people and natural resources of Wisconsin. Our conservation wardens are certified law enforcement officers who patrol statewide day and night, investigate natural resource-related violations, and ensure the safety of everyone who enjoys the outdoors. Conservation wardens use education, enforcement and community involvement to accomplish their duties and promote the conservation ethic. The conservation warden career is both unique and rewarding, and requires candidates with a passion for helping others, communication skills and an appreciation for the outdoors.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HIRING PROCESS

CONTACT A WARDEN TO LEARN MORE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Diversity & Inclusion Statement:

The Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection is responsible for protecting natural resources, which are essential for the lives, health and happiness of every person in Wisconsin. We are committed to creating a culture of inclusivity, building trusting relationships, and thoughtfully engaging and serving our diverse public.



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