



WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

WARDEN RECRUITMENT



Conservation Warden Sam Eagan at the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit Headquarters. / Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

Warden Spotlight: Sam Eagan

Warden Sam Eagan joined the DNR as a conservation warden in 2020. After attending the warden academy, Sam was assigned to the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit (KMSU). Covering more than 22,000 acres of forested glacial hills, kettle lakes, and prairies, the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine

State Forest is interlaced with more than 100 miles of mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking and nature trails. Paddling, boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, and winter sports opportunities are popular pastimes in the area. There are three family campgrounds, a horse-riders camp, two group camps, and remote backpack shelters on the Ice Age Trail. Sam is one of two wardens assigned to this large DNR property and focuses on public safety and community/visitor outreach.

Sam says he has always enjoyed the outdoors and was excited to discover a career focused on protecting those resources for everyone. "I was drawn to the Kettle Moraine warden assignment because of the diversity of outdoor recreation that takes place there. The property's large size and variety of duties allow me to continue to learn about the environment while regularly assisting members of the public."

Just as the work of field wardens assigned to part of a county varies by season, so does the work of wardens assigned to major state properties like the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit. "During the busy summer months, I work with state forest staff and visitors to resolve issues, answer questions and ensure safety. From a law enforcement perspective, I investigate everything from motor vehicle accidents to disruptive visitors to thefts," Sam said. In addition, he assists with search-and-rescue activities and major events like concerts and triathlons.

Sam's duties shift toward hunting and trapping enforcement during the fall and winter. Later in the season, when things freeze over, and the snow starts to fly, Sam changes his focus to snowmobile and ice fishing enforcement. "Each day and season brings new opportunities to help protect people and resources. The variety makes the assignment fulfilling," he said. "It's nearly impossible to get bored."

Sam takes his mentoring and helping role seriously and engages in public outreach and mentoring. "I regularly have the opportunity to speak at community meetings, help state forest visitors who have questions, and assist with programs like Learn To Fish events. I enjoy being a protector and an ambassador for the DNR and our natural resources," Sam said.

Although Sam is assigned to Kettle Moraine, he also assists the field wardens assigned to the surrounding counties with their patrols and investigations. In addition, he somewhat regularly assists local public safety agencies as emergencies arise in surrounding communities, using his first responder skillsets and service-minded approach to help anyone in need.

Warden Sam also can engage in the wide variety of natural resource and environmental protection duties that are more typical for field wardens assigned to part of a county. He still benefits from some schedule flexibility, enjoys the variety and career-long learning, and appreciates his team's team-based approach. "I get the independence to work on my own, but I also know I can rely on the help of my larger team when needed. We go out of our way to help each other, regardless of where we're assigned."

You can learn more about conservation warden careers on our [recruitment website](#).

Live Webinar

Join us on Tuesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. CST for a live webinar detailing the conservation warden hiring and training process. There will be a Q&A session during the live event. [You can view the webinar on YouTube](#). No pre-registration is necessary. The event will also be recorded and available afterward using the same link.

2023 Warden Hiring Update

We plan to open the next conservation warden application process in mid-April. Most or all of this year's opportunities will be for conservation warden positions at our state parks and forests. Station locations will not be known during the initial application process. Applicants will have the opportunity to indicate where in the state they are willing to work near the end of the hiring process. Applicants will know what station location they are committing to when they accept a job offer. Those successful in this year's hiring process and attending the DNR's 720-hour law enforcement academy will begin employment on January 2, 2024.

You can find more information on conservation warden careers on our [recruitment website](#). As always, our recruitment team is happy to answer questions for prospective applicants. We encourage you to contact us at DNRLERecruitment@wisconsin.gov as you prepare to apply.

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.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources | dnr.wi.gov

Call 1-888-936-7463 (TTY Access via relay - 711) from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

