2020: A YEAR OF ACTION
By Warden Austin Schumacher

The role of a DNR Conservation Warden is ever-evolving in this fast-paced world. A good conservation warden takes on many different challenges throughout their career, and therefore must possess a variety of skills and abilities. So, what can you do to prepare?

Here are some goals to consider for the new year:

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Get involved and make a difference within your community! Volunteer for food drives, ring bells during the holidays, or find another way be there for those in need. Remember, as conservation wardens, we are constantly involved within our communities. Show us you care.

OUTDOOR INVOLVEMENT: Get outside and enjoy the resources and activities a conservation warden regulates. As wardens, we educate and enforce laws relating to hunting, fishing, trapping, environmental violations, state parks, ATVing, snowmobiling, boating, etc. The more you know about these activities and the more you engage in some of them yourself, the better equipped you’ll be to become a conservation warden.

INTERNSHIPS/MENTORSHIPS/RIDE ALONGS: All of these are great ways to gain experience and make sure the career is really for you. Consider becoming a mentor for a Learn to Hunt or Learn to Fish event, or schedule a ride-along with your local warden to see what it is really like on patrol.

These are just a few goals to prepare you for the challenge of becoming a Conservation Warden. There are many other ways to show you are ready to serve and protect the residents of Wisconsin and the natural resources that it holds.

For more ideas contact Jeffrey King (608) 219-4887 or visit http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WardenRecruitment/
SWIM REQUIREMENT UPDATE

The hiring process will no longer include a portion of the Fitness Assessment: the Swim Requirement. New conservation wardens will still have to pass this assessment, but it will now take place during the Law Enforcement Academy after several weeks of pool training. The assessment remains the same:

- Swim 300 Yards without aid using any stroke
- Tread Water for 5 minutes without aid
- Execute a Head First Surface Dive to Retrieve an Unweighted Object from a Depth of 7-12 ft

TIPS: RESUMES AND COVER LETTERS

Another great project for the new year is refreshing your resume and polishing your cover letter.

In 2015, most state of Wisconsin agencies, including the Wisconsin DNR, adopted a resume and cover letter screening as the application for employment. Everyone must now apply at wisc.jobs for permanent employment and upload a resume and cover letter. Your resume is graded by a team of subject matter experts and is used to determine your eligibility and score for the position. It is best to customize both your resume and cover letter for the specific position you are applying for. Do not just upload your standard resume and cover letter.

**TIP:** Read the job announcement and make sure your resume and cover letter explain how you meet the minimum qualifications and the “well-qualified candidate” qualifications listed in the job announcement.

As always, call (608-219-4887) or e-mail (jeffrey.king@wisconsin.gov) the WI DNR Warden Recruiter with any questions you have about applying!

**Happy New Year from the WI DNR Warden Recruitment Committee!**