



CAREERS IN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Be a Part of the Tradition



COL. JON EVANS



GORDON MYERS

Thank you for your interest in the Division of Law Enforcement and the position of Wildlife Officer. Over the years, many men and women in North Carolina have enjoyed a career as a Wildlife Officer. Today, more than 200 protect and serve in this capacity across the state. Each of these individuals represents a commitment and dedication to a job done well. It all began with an interest similar to yours. I wish you luck.

The citizens and the guests of North Carolina have long relied on Wildlife Officers to safeguard our natural resources and protect the outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy them, through enforcement of fish and game laws. This is an important responsibility. Wildlife Officers are held to a high standard, which requires training and hard work. It also brings fulfillment and reward; as such valuable service often does for those who provide them on behalf of others.

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



AGENCY AT-A-GLANCE

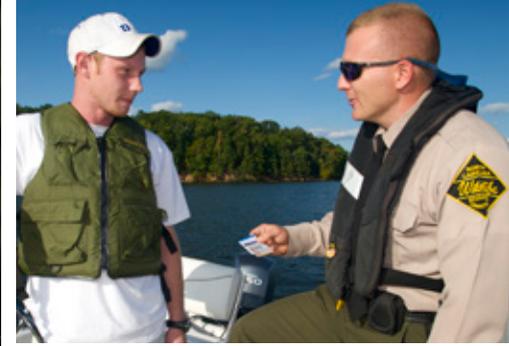
Since the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1947, the agency has been dedicated to the conservation and management of fish and wildlife for the benefit of citizens and sportsmen, and for future generations. Policies and programs are based on scientifically sound resource management, assessment and monitoring, applied research, and public input. Our mission statement is “to conserve wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.”

OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission divides the state into nine districts. An annual public hearing is held for each district in January, which allows comments on fish and game regulations, and opinions from specific communities and constituencies. The agency consists of six divisions: Administrative Services, Conservation Education, Engineering Services, Inland Fisheries, Wildlife Management, and Law Enforcement.

DIVISION AT-A-GLANCE

The Division of Law Enforcement is charged with enforcing the game, fish and boating laws of North Carolina as established by the N.C. General Assembly and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Wildlife Officers are state law enforcement personnel, with arrest authority for state and federal violations. Each holds a Basic Law Enforcement Training certification. In particular, Wildlife Officers enforce the game, fish and boating laws to protect the resources of the state and the safety of its citizens. They can arrest for any criminal offense committed in their presence. Their authority is granted by N.C.G.S. §113-136.



DUTIES OF A WILDLIFE OFFICER

A Wildlife Officer enforces game, fish, and boating laws and regulations in assigned areas.

An officer must have a thorough knowledge of state and federal laws and regulations, with an ability to enforce the law fairly.

An officer must be acquainted with game and fish species and their habitats; have working knowledge of firearms, hunting and fishing equipment, and watercraft. An officer must be able to operate boats and vehicles in various conditions.

Law Enforcement also maintains three aircraft with three officers serving as full-time pilots.

TRAINING

All wildlife officer candidates are required to pass an extensive background, psychological and physical screening prior to entering a vigorous 21-week accredited academy conducted by the Division of Law Enforcement, with the majority of training at the N.C. Justice Academy. Graduates are placed with a veteran wildlife officer for six months field training experience. Wildlife officers are required to meet an annual 24-hour minimum, in-service training requirement as mandated for all state law enforcement officers.

HOW THE JOB GETS DONE

Wildlife Officers patrol fields, forests and state waters at all hours of the day and night. They utilize motor vehicle, plane, boat, as well as on foot.

Wildlife Officers often work alone on patrols, but also interact with other law enforcement agencies and sometimes perform undercover operations.

This work involves considerable interaction with the public, in different and often demanding situations.

A Wildlife Officer investigates crimes and accidents, performs search and rescue and renders first aid. Wildlife Officers testify in court and must be able to speak on record to the news media.



ENFORCEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

Part of a Wildlife Officer's job is building awareness about the law, hunting and boating safety, and the importance of conservation. This role can have an officer speaking to or instructing groups, particularly sportsmen, civic, church and youth organizations.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and its many conservation partners consider Wildlife Officers to be among the best ambassadors for natural resources stewardship, outdoors sports and recreational safety.

FISHING, HUNTING & TRAPPING

Wildlife officers have regulatory enforcement responsibilities for hunting, trapping and inland fishing in the state. N.C. hunting and trapping laws apply to all lands, public or private.

Wildlife officers:

- Patrol all open fields and woodlands, including more than 2 million acres of public game lands, to ensure compliance with state and federal fish and game laws.
- Investigate all hunting accidents and publish an annual hunting related accident report.
- Conduct free hunter education courses, required for all first-time hunting license buyers.

BOATING

Wildlife officers are charged with enforcing the boating laws and regulations on the waters of the state. The aim of boating enforcement is always safety. Wildlife officers may stop any vessel for safety checks or violations, as authorized by N.C.G.S. §75A.

Wildlife officers:

- Patrol over 5,000 square miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways, 220 public boating access areas; conduct nationally recognized boating education courses.
- Conduct all boating accident investigations; publish an annual boating accident report.
- Enforce the Boating Safety Education Law, which requires anyone younger than 26 operating a vessel powered by 10 hp or greater motor on public waterways to have successfully completed an approved boating safety education course or otherwise be in compliance.



COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

Working for North Carolina provides employees the opportunity to serve the citizens of North Carolina. For their dedication, employees receive a generous benefits package including leave options and health care in addition to their annual salary. Wildlife Officers receive:

- Competitive salary and advancement opportunities
- Paid holidays and military leave
- Specialized training
- Take home agency-issued patrol vehicle

REQUIREMENTS

To be considered a recruit, you must:

- Be 20 years old before the state exam
- A high school graduate (or GED)
- Good background and no criminal record
- A valid driver's license

CAPABILITIES

In addition to being in an excellent physical condition, candidates must meet vision, hearing and other sensory perception standards. Maintaining a healthy physical regimen is a part of job performance upon becoming an officer. Wildlife Officers must be willing to accept assignment to anywhere in the state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If a career as a Wildlife Officer sounds like something you would be interested in, there are several ways to get more information. Go to www.ncwildlife.org and visit the Law Enforcement webpage or call 919-707-0031, or write:

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must complete and submit a state application for employment using the new NEOGOV online job application system: www.osp.state.nc.us/jobs/

Application for employment must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the closing date for the advertised position. Resumes and cover letters can be uploaded with your application.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all wildlife programs are administered for the benefit of all North Carolina citizens without prejudice toward age, sex, race, religion or national origin. Violations of this pledge may be reported to the Commission EOE Officer, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Telephone 919-707-0201.



CREDITS

Editorial Oversight by Capt. Mickey Little, training director for the Division of Law Enforcement

Written by Geoff Cantrell, public information officer for the Division of Law Enforcement

Photos by Melissa McGaw

ONLINE UPDATE JULY 2014