



Contact Us



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

1751 VARSITY DRIVE | RALEIGH, NC 27606 | 919-707-0030

NCWILDLIFE.ORG



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CAREERS IN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Off the Pavement





*North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Law Enforcement Division*

**PROFESSIONAL FAIR INTEGRITY
DEDICATED TRUSTWORTHY**

A message from the Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission



Gordon Myers

North Carolina has long relied on wildlife officers to safeguard our state's wildlife resources and their habitats, and increase safety on our waterways. It is an awesome and important responsibility, with the weight of conservation and public safety upon the shoulders of the women and men who accept the challenge of that responsibility.

Wildlife officers are an important component for a rapidly changing landscape. I am confident in their abilities. We all count upon their capabilities and appreciate their efforts for conservation and sustainable wildlife-related activities, now and into the future.

On behalf of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, I thank you for your interest.

A message from the Chief of the Law Enforcement Division



Col. Jon Evans

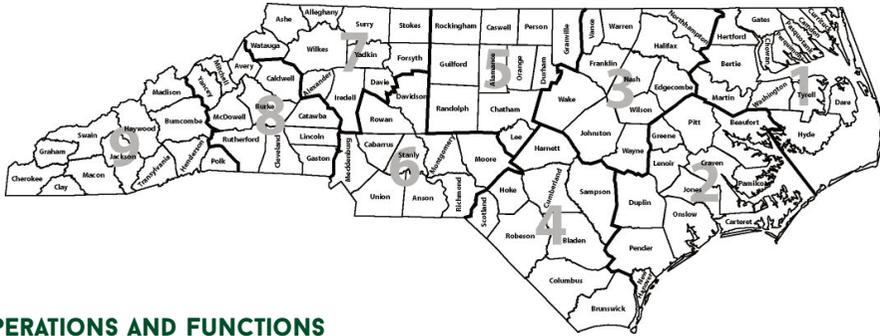
Thank you for your interest in becoming a North Carolina Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer. We are always looking for the qualified individuals that are interested in a career conserving our State's wildlife resources and their habitats and providing programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation. Our division contributes to the overall agency mission by enforcing conservation and boating laws for the State of North Carolina. Our division administers educational programs, such as hunter education and boating safety education.

As the chief of the Law Enforcement Division, I welcome the opportunity to share information on this demanding but rewarding career.

AGENCY AT-A-GLANCE

Since the N.C. 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.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission District Boundaries



OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission divides the state into nine districts for jurisdictional and operational purposes. An annual public hearing is held for each district, which allows comments on conservation issues and regulations, and a platform for opinions from specific communities and constituencies. The agency consists of departmental divisions for Customer Services; Information, Education and Marketing; Engineering and Lands Management; Inland Fisheries; Wildlife Management and Law Enforcement.

DIVISION AT-A-GLANCE

The Law Enforcement Division 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 officers, 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 while in performance of their duties. Their authority is granted by N.C.G.S. §113-136.

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.



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 outboard motorboats and vehicles in various conditions. The Law Enforcement division also maintains 3 aircraft with 3 officers serving as full-time pilots.

HOW THE JOB GETS DONE

Wildlife officers patrol fields, forests and state waters at all hours of the day and night. They utilize many types of patrol methods including motor vehicles, aircraft, boats, as well as foot patrol. Wildlife officers often work alone on patrols, but also interact with other law enforcement agencies and sometimes perform undercover investigations. This work involves considerable interaction with the public, in different and often demanding situations.

A wildlife officer investigates crimes, boating incidents, hunting incidents, performs search and rescue and renders first aid. Wildlife officers testify in court and must be able to speak on record to the media.



BUILDING AWARENESS

Part of a wildlife officer's job is to help people understand the importance of conservation, compliance with conservation laws, and practice hunting safety and boating safety. This role can have an officer speaking to a variety of 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.



*“Everyday as a Wildlife Officer is different...
there are no typical days at the office”*

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

All wildlife officer candidates are required to pass an extensive background, psychological and physical screening prior to entering an accredited training academy conducted by the Law Enforcement Division. The majority of training is held at the N.C. Justice Academy in Salemburg. Recruits are housed in dorms with fellow recruits; training is strictly structured with a 5:30 a.m. physical fitness session every morning. Graduates are placed with a veteran wildlife officer for six months of field training.



PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS PAGE BY GEOFF CANTRELL/NCWRC

REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for employment, you must:

- Be 20 years old before the state exam.
- Have a bachelor's degree or equivalent education and experience.
- A valid driver's license.
- Undergo a thorough background investigation, including a complete criminal history check.



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 any county in the state. All wildlife officers are required to meet an annual 24-hour minimum, in-service training requirement as mandated for all state law enforcement officers.

CONSERVATION, FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Wildlife officers have regulatory enforcement responsibilities for conservation, hunting, trapping and inland fishing in the state. State and federal 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 all state and federal fish and game laws.
- Investigate all hunting incidents and assist in publishing an annual hunting related incident report.
- Conduct free hunter education courses, required for all first-time hunting license buyers.



A 24-hour radio communication center dispatches wildlife officers across nine districts, consisting of nine to 13 counties each. Each district has an enforcement command hierarchy of a captain, a lieutenant and four sergeants responsible for four patrol areas with three to five wildlife officers. Typically, one to two wildlife officers are stationed per county.



POACHING

Sportsmen and the public can assist wildlife officers in their duties by reporting conservation violations by calling 1-800-662-7137. Callers can remain anonymous. Violations can also be reported anonymously by calling 1-855-WILDTIP. The reporting of certain wildlife violations make the tipster eligible for payment of a reward through the Wildlife Poacher Reward Fund.

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 and education.

Wildlife officers:

- Patrol over 5,000 miles of inland streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waterways, and over 200 public boating access areas; conduct nationally recognized boating education courses.
- Conduct all recreational boating incidents investigations.
- Enforce the Boating Safety Education Law, which requires anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 who is operating a vessel powered by 10 horsepower or greater motor on public waterways to have successfully completed an approved boating safety education course or otherwise be in compliance with N.C.G.S. 75A-16.2.



COMPENSATION AND 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If a career as a wildlife officer sounds like the career you would be interested in, there are several ways to get more information. Go to ncwildlife.org and visit the Law Enforcement page or call 919-707-0030. Or write:

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

The 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.



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