

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER I

POSITION CODE: 09341

Effective: 11-1-23

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under general supervision, functions as a sworn statutory peace officer within an assigned district and possesses full law enforcement authority; performs field enforcement activities in providing for to provide public safety and professional enforcement of all Illinois Compiled Statutes with emphasis in enforcement of laws regularly administered by the Department of Natural Resources in the areas of natural resources management; professionally conveys interpretations of state and applicable federal law, department and division policies, procedures and programs to the general public; and functions as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Special Agent.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Patrols an assigned geographic area (during any type of weather conditions) by foot, or assigned boat and/or specialized vehicles such as four-wheel drive, all terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles; performs necessary activities for public safety, protection of the State's natural resources, and legal compliance of equipment used by outdoor recreationists such as checking firearms and firearm registration, checking sportsmen for licenses, checking boats for safety equipment, vehicle violations in recreational areas, patrols (day or night) for poaching and disturbances in parks, and remains alert to illegal possession of alcohol or controlled substances; enforces on-view violations of all Illinois Compiled Statutes when public safety is threatened such as assaults, driving under the influence, or armed robbery.
2. Writes warnings and citations for various law violations; obtains warrants and makes arrests as necessary (effects physical arrest through the use of necessary force up to and including deadly force); gathers and tags evidence, completes incident reports and makes necessary contacts with judicial bodies for effective processing of cases needing adjudication, and presents evidence and or provides testimony in criminal and civil courts.
3. Promotes public safety and legal compliance of equipment used by outdoor recreationists, i.e., through on-site physical inspections, and through the promotion of safety education, e.g., watercraft, snowmobiles, firearms, bow and arrow devices and traps.

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER I (Continued)

4. Professionally conveys interpretations to the public and promotes public preservation of natural resources and the need for conservation enforcement programs through oral and written communication of state and applicable federal laws, department and division policies, procedures, and programs, such as individual inquiries, fish stocking programs, recreation facilities, legislative mandated educational programs, Acres for Wildlife, and Target Illinois Poachers.
5. Conducts periodic inspections and investigations of individuals or businesses, such as taxidermist, fish markets, food stores, food wholesalers, game farms, pet stores, timber buyers, saw mills, fur buyers, commercial fishermen for compliance with state or federal conservation laws regulating the sale and commercial possession of protected, threatened and endangered species, and/or license/permit requirements.
6. Functions as a covert officer on an intra and inter-state basis, in conducting short and/or long term complex and technical investigations of both misdemeanor and felony violations of state and federal conservation laws; makes periodic cash purchases and maintains detailed expenditure records of illegal fish, wildlife, forest, or other plant products purchased through the department's Cash Investigative Fund.
7. Provides evacuation assistance to the general public and other agencies during emergencies and natural disasters such as floods and nuclear emergencies/drills; operates various vehicles and boats which provide effective evacuation of public; assists in search and rescue, and drowning victim recovery operations; and interacts and provides law enforcement assistance to other law enforcement agencies in possible life threatening situations requiring timely response by a law enforcement agent.
8. Functions as an authorized U.S. Fish and Wildlife Deputy Special Agent, conducts investigations into violations of federal conservation laws and treaties; as assigned, works with other state and federal officers investigating illegal activity and gathers evidence of violations of federal laws, e.g., Lacey Act, Threatened Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act; assists the U.S. district attorney in preparation of federal court cases for trial and testifies in federal court.
9. Conducts investigations of pollution complaints pertaining to hazardous waste or other pollutant substances on department property or into all waters of the State; obtains samples of pollutants for further laboratory analysis and interviews witnesses or suspects; initiates appropriate action to ensure proper disposition.
10. Instructs, counsels, and provides field training to officer trainees; guides, directs, and critiques the field training of an assigned trainee on an individual basis.
11. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER I (Continued)

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires successful completion of an approved training program such as the Illinois Conservation Police Officer Training Program which includes successful completion of the Illinois Basic Police Training Program.

Per 20 ILCS 805/815-535, at the time of hire, applicants must:

- Be 21 years of age and completed an associate's degree, or have successfully completed 60 credit hours at an accredited college or university; OR be hired at 20 years of age and completed an associate's degree or have successfully completed 60 credit hours at an accredited college or university. Persons shall not have power of arrest, nor be permitted to carry firearms until reaching 21 years of age.
- Meet the minimum standards of the Peace Officer Wellness Evaluation Report (Power Test)
- Successfully complete an agency approved Swimming Competency Test
- Satisfy other pre-employment standards as required in the Illinois Civil Administrative Code Title 17, Section 2050.30
- Requires possession of an appropriate, current and valid driver's license.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING MILITARY SERVICE

- Effective July 1, 2022, persons who have been honorably discharged and have been awarded a service medal as stated in 20 ILCS 805/815-535 (i) are deemed to have met the collegiate education requirements of this class.
- Active members of the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces and who have been awarded a service medal as stated in 20 ILCS 805/815-535 (ii) as a result of honorable service during deployment on active duty are deemed to have met the collegiate education requirements of this class.
- Persons who have been honorably discharged and served in a combat mission by proof of hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay during deployment on active duty, per 20 ILCS 805/815-535 (iii) are deemed to have met the collegiate education requirements of this class.
- Persons who have at least 3 years of full active and continuous military duty and received an honorable discharge before hiring, are deemed to have met the collegiate education requirements of this class, per 20 ILCS 805/815-535 (iv).

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires working knowledge of officer's survival skills.

Requires a working knowledge of technical law enforcement skills.

Requires working knowledge of all Illinois Compiled Statutes, applicable federal laws and administrative laws.

Requires working knowledge of verbal and written communication skills.

Requires working knowledge of division and department objectives, policies, programs and services, and the need to preserve the State's natural resources.

CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER I (Continued)

Requires working knowledge of outdoor recreational and commercial equipment such as fishing tackle, trapping, hunting, boating and snowmobiling equipment.

Requires working knowledge of outdoor recreational participant's habits, methods and techniques relative to various state and federal conservation laws.

Requires a working knowledge of investigations and arrests, confiscation and handling of evidence, and prosecution procedures.

Requires working knowledge of and ability to identify common native fish, wildlife, forest and plant species and related natural environments.

Employees will be required to periodically demonstrate continuing physical proficiency as defined by departmental policy sufficient to carry out the duties of the classification.

Employees will be required to periodically qualify with appropriate firearms as defined by departmental policy and applicable law including skill in the use, care, and safety of such weapons.

Employees will be required to periodically complete continued departmental/divisional and other professional training as required by law or by division/department policies and procedures.

Employees may occasionally be required to respond to special enforcement operations and/or incidents requiring immediate response.

Requires ability to administer basic first aid and/or CPR in an emergency situation.

Requires ability to work under adverse environmental and tactical conditions.

Requires ability to proficiently operate and maintain equipment necessary to perform the assigned duties of a Conservation Police Officer, i.e., motor vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, two-way radios, mobile data computer, watercraft, outboard motor, firearms, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, radar speed meters, and sonar depth finders.

Requires ability to enforce all applicable state and federal laws and administrative rules.

Requires ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

Requires ability to work independently and recognize and respond to emergency situations quickly and effectively.

Requires ability to conduct investigations, inspections, issue warning and arrest citations, execute search and arrest warrants, seize and maintain evidence and to provide court testimony as a State's witness.

Requires ability to effect physical arrests.

Requires ability to prepare comprehensive written and oral reports.

Requires ability to communicate and promote safety education to conservation organizations, school groups, and the general public in the safe use of various recreational and sport equipment and various activities related to regulatory enforcement and preserving the State's natural resources.

Requires ability to maintain and establish satisfactory working relationships with the general public, other law enforcement officers, conservation and civic organizations and other departmental employees.