

# Cabela's Apprenticeship Program

University of Nebraska–Lincoln · School of Natural Resources  
*Experience. Stewardship. Conservation.*

## ◆ About the Program

The Cabela's Apprenticeship Program provides UNL undergraduate students with funded, hands-on experiences in natural resource conservation, research, and outreach. Since its launch in 2016, the program has supported over 100 apprenticeships, totaling more than \$323,000 in direct student funding. Most projects occur in Nebraska, with others across North America and Africa (Canada, Mexico, Botswana, Kenya, and Rwanda). Cabela's and SNR share a commitment to conserving fish, game, and wild places. Together, they prepare students to keep wild places wild while developing the next generation of conservation leaders.

## ◆ Learning Through Experience

Natural resource management connects three essential parts:

1. **Biota** – the living organisms being studied or managed
2. **People** – those who use, value, or depend on the resource
3. **Habitat** – the physical environment that supports life

Apprenticeships immerse students in one or more of these areas—often combining habitat restoration, wildlife and ecological monitoring, and public engagement in conservation. Each experience is designed to foster personal growth, professional readiness, and a deeper understanding of stewardship.

## ◆ Program Impact

Year Started	Apprenticeships Funded	Total Support	Locations
2016	104	\$323,000+	Nebraska, U.S., Abroad

Examples of supported experiences:

- Field or research projects (e.g., avian monitoring, habitat restoration)
- Conservation education and outreach programs
- Natural-resource internships or applied work experiences
- Supplemental funding for unpaid internships in conservation agencies or NGOs

## ◆ Project Focus

Projects must clearly align with Cabela's mission to conserve fish, game, and the wild places that are our heritage. Proposals may emphasize research, education, management, or engagement—as long as they advance stewardship and conservation goals.

Funds may be:

- Disbursed directly to students as a one-time award (not an hourly wage), or
- Transferred to a UNL Cost Object to purchase supplies, equipment, or project materials

**Key Expectation:** Your proposal should clearly explain how the apprenticeship will contribute to your personal and professional development—what skills, experiences, and insights you expect to gain and how they will shape your future in natural-resources work.

## ◆ Student Showcase

All apprentices present their work or experience at the SNR Spring Banquet Poster Session, sharing what they learned and how the apprenticeship advanced their professional growth, conservation values, and readiness to contribute to the field.

## ◆ Application Components

Apply online at:

[snr.unl.edu/undergrad/funding/cabelaapprenticeshipprogram.aspx](http://snr.unl.edu/undergrad/funding/cabelaapprenticeshipprogram.aspx)

A complete application includes:

- Student information (name, email, GPA, semester)
  - Upload current unofficial transcript
- Career-goals statement – how the apprenticeship supports your development
- Project or experience description
- Mentor information and contact
- Timeline and deliverables
- Budget and use of funds (award or cost-object allocation)
- Distinct contribution statement (this application is your own work)

**Applications must be written by the student.**

- Applications must be written by the student and reflect the student’s original writing and ideas (non-AI-generated).
- Team projects are permitted, but each proposal must describe a unique and distinguishable role.

**Access Note:** The online application requires a password, available from Sara Winn, Bridget Gross, Kenneth Pyle, or Chris Chizinski.

## ◆ What Makes a Strong Application

Strong applications typically include:

- Clear career goals connected to conservation outcomes
- Defined project or experience plan with objectives, timeline, and deliverables
- Mentorship from an SNR faculty or field professional
- Feasible, well-justified budget (student award or project expenses)
- Direct connection to Cabela’s mission and student development

Show how this experience will advance your learning, leadership, and ability to contribute to natural-resource stewardship.

## ◆ 2026 Application Timeline

Item	Date
Applications Open	January 20 2026
Application Deadline	February 13, 2026
Review & Selection	Late February 2026
Notifications Sent	Early March 2026
Number of Awards	8 students funded
Typical Funding	≈ \$3,000 per apprentice

## ◆ Contact Information

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<https://snr.unl.edu/undergrad/funding/cabelaapprenticeshipprogram.aspx>