

# SECO Training Program Syllabus

**Program:** Schuylkill Environmental Career Online Training

**Run By:** Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area

**Instructors:** Diana Maher and Sarah Crothers

**Program Website:** [schuylkillriver.org/seco](http://schuylkillriver.org/seco)

## **Program Description:**

Schuylkill Environmental Career Online Training is a 6-session virtual course for young professionals with an environmental focus. Each week, we will discuss a new topic relating to environmental science, how to enter a professional field, or the environmental career field. Each week will consist of discussions and/or hands-on activities. After each 1-hour session, participants will be asked to complete a short assignment on their own. Successful participants who attend each session and complete all the required materials will receive a certificate of completion.

## **Program Objectives:**

The objective of this program is to better prepare students and emerging professionals for their future career. Upon completion of this course, students and young professionals will acquire and learn desirable skills and tools needed to enter the environmental career field, understand new emerging issues that professionals are facing, and gain transferable and essential professional skills to enter any career field.

## **Schedule:**

Week 1: Introduction and Watersheds

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

To begin the program, we will start with an introduction to understand the expectations and requirements of the program and continue into ice breakers. In this session, participants will come to understand what a watershed is and why they are important. This lesson will include the topics of ecosystem services, economic services, and the Delaware and Schuylkill Watershed.

**Materials:** Computer, Internet, pencil and paper

**Assignment:** Watershed online scavenger hunt. Visit [mywaterway.epa.gov](http://mywaterway.epa.gov) and follow the written instructions on the document the website. Fill in the answers according to your location and email the completed worksheet to [dmaher@schuylkillriver.org](mailto:dmaher@schuylkillriver.org).

## Week 2: Biodiversity and iNaturalist

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

Session 2 will consist of a lesson on biodiversity and the importance of online tools, such as iNaturalist, for collecting data. We will discuss why biodiversity is necessary in each ecosystem and how we rely on the balance of species.

**Materials:** Computer, Internet, smart phone for iNaturalist

**Assignment:** Participate in BioBlitz by downloading iNaturalist and finding 10 things in nature to identify. Add sighting to our official group. Smartphone is required to use the app.

## Week 3: Watershed Pollution and Solutions

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

This session will discuss how pollutants enter our waterways, what types of pollutants there are, and how we can further prevent water pollution.

**Materials:** Computer, Internet

**Assignment:** Pollution investigation exercise. Follow the directions and answer all questions to find the source of pollution. Email assignment to [dmaher@schuylkillriver.org](mailto:dmaher@schuylkillriver.org)

## Week 4: Career and Education Options

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

We will discuss career and education options that are available to everyone. From University programs to internships and Americorps, we will present several options available to participants. Gain insights

**Materials:** Computer, Internet

**Assignment:** Perform an informational Interview with a close friend or family member and proceed to write one page explaining the experience and what you learned from them. Turn in assignment to [dmaher@schuylkillriver.org](mailto:dmaher@schuylkillriver.org).

#### Week 5: Mapping, GIS, and Watershed Delineation

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

Mapping is a valued skill to have in the environmental field. We will show you what skills are sought after in an applicant and where you can train to improve those skills. We will discuss the basics of reading a map, how to delineate a watershed, and different applications of GIS.

**Materials:** Computer, Internet

**Assignment:** Water, waste, or carbon audit. You will choose one topic and follow the instructions to calculate how much you use/emit. Follow the instructions on the document on the website and send the results to [dmaher@schuylkillriver.org](mailto:dmaher@schuylkillriver.org).

#### Week 6: Resume Building and Networking

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

No matter what career field you want to enter, you need a resume and cover letter to summarize your experiences and skills. In this resume building workshop, we will discuss what to include in your resume and cover letter, how to format a resume and cover letter, and some tips that all employers like to see. During this time, you will be able to answer any questions about the application process.

**Materials:** Computer, Internet, Resume if you have one