



Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers work with conservationists to secure and protect natural resources.



Inspiring Minds to Grow

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career profile

Name: Brian Brighton
Job Title: Conservation
Officer

Employer: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

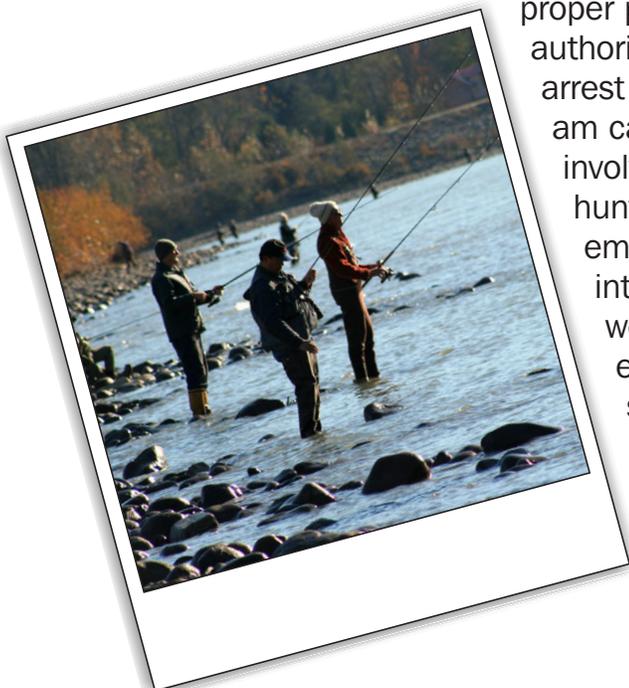
Education: BS, Michigan State University: East Lansing

 I developed a passion for wildlife conservation after becoming aware of a number of incidences of wildlife poaching that occurred on our family's farm and in a nearby state park. I value wildlife, and I did not think it was right that some people ignored laws designed to protect wildlife populations. As a senior in high school, I decided to major in fisheries and wildlife and minor in criminal justice at college.

 Today, I'm employed as a conservation officer for the state. I follow technical standards to manage, protect, and improve natural resources. I spend a majority of my time patrolling my assigned zones and visually confirming that wildlife is protected. I am responsible for ensuring that hunters, trappers,

and fishers hold the proper permits and licenses. I'm authorized to issue citations and detain or arrest people involved in criminal activity. Sometimes I am called in on investigations of criminal activity involving illegal hunting or fishing, homicides during hunting, boating accidents, and drownings. I provide emergency services and manage wildlife/human interactions on the roadways and in campgrounds. I work to educate the public about conservation and encourage the development of a sense of stewardship for natural resources. I also assist conservationists with research projects or studies related to wildlife management.

 I take pride in knowing that I play an important role in protecting natural resources.



Conservation Officer

overview



A **conservation officer** works with conservationists to secure and protect natural resources.

suggested high school courses



wildlife management, environmental science, chemistry, earth science, biology, computer science, and mathematics

experience needed



Seek an internship while in school to gain practical experience. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree in natural resources, environmental science, biology, or a related field is required. Training in law enforcement is an additional benefit.

potential employers



conservation organizations, environmental organizations, governmental agencies, research firms

salary range



\$47,335 to \$62,389

employment outlook and trends



The employment outlook for conservation officers is **average**.

professional organizations



Ecological Society of America www.esa.org/portland/
World Association of Soil and Water Conservation www.waswc.org/



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