



# Conservation Officer

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



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# career profile

Name: Brian Brighton  
Job Title: Conservation  
Officer


Employer: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

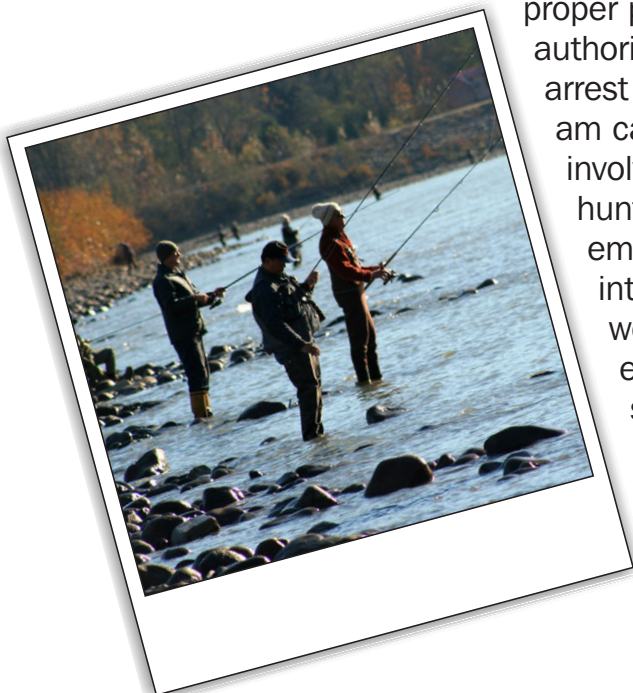
Education: BS, Michigan State University: East Lansing

 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/](http://www.esa.org/portland/)  
World Association of Soil and Water Conservation [www.waswc.org/](http://www.waswc.org/)



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