

Women and the National Weather Service

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Outline

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 - Graduate information
 - Work information
 - Volunteering at NWS Sterling
 - Current Newport/Morehead City Intern job
- Females and NWS
 - Historical and Future
- Advice to those wishing to get into NWS
 - Suggestions if you are thinking about a career with the NWS

About Me...

- I graduated in May 2005
- Volunteered at the Washington/Baltimore Forecast office from Sept 2005-April 2006.
- Began as an intern at Newport/Morehead City, NC office May 2006.

Total number of people employed by National Weather Service:

Approximately **4,800** NWS employees in 122 Weather Forecast Offices, 21 CWSUs, 13 River Forecast Centers, 9 National Centers, and other support offices around the country.

Anyone want to take a guess as to what the % of women in the NWS is today?

- Approximately **18%** of the NWS workforce are women. This percentage has been constant for the past five years. 18% is very unrepresentative when compared to national civilian labor force.
- Hopefully this number will begin to increase over the next few years with more and more younger women getting involved in science and meteorology in particular.

- While it is no secret meteorology is a male dominated profession...there is plenty of potential for women in the National Weather Service...as well as other science career fields.

- There are built in female support systems in the NWS.

For example there is a “Women in the Weather Service” email list serve, where you can use your fellow list serve subscribers as a sounding board for all kinds of different things.

So if by some chance you end up at an office with all males, you don’t have to feel all alone!

History of women and the NWS



- 1941: Two women are listed as employees in the Weather Bureau. One is an observer and the other is a forecaster.
- 1945: Over 900 women are employed by the Weather Bureau as observers and forecasters. This is a result of women filling positions vacated by men during World War II.

- U.S. Weather Bureau, Green Bay Forecast Office staff 1943-44:

Eleanor, Winnie, Hilda (in charge), Marian.



Ad from Pittsburgh-Post Gazette

- “Recruiting feminine personnel for positions as weather observers will be conducted in Pittsburgh at the Chamber of Commerce building by Lois Coots, a junior meteorologist of the United States Weather Bureau, on Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12. Applicants must be 17 years old or over, must have at least one year of high school mathematics and science and must be able to pass a civil service examination for junior observers.”





See...not too much has changed...except for maybe the wardrobe.



Ok...so maybe things have changed a little. But you have to admire her fixing that wind equipment, even in those heels!

Advice to those considering the NWS

- SCEP
- Hollings Scholar
- Volunteer

Student Opportunities

- **Student Career Employment Program (SCEP)** - SCEP offers participants work experience directly related to their academic field of study. It provides formal periods of work and study while attending school. Participants in this program may be eligible for permanent employment after successfully completing their education and work requirements.

Student Opportunities...

- **Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program** provides successful undergraduate applicants with awards that include academic assistance (up to a maximum of \$8,000 per year) for full-time study during the 9-month academic year; a 10-week, full-time internship position (\$650/week) during the summer at a NOAA facility; and, if reappointed, academic assistance (up to a maximum of \$8,000) for full-time study during a second 9-month academic year. The internship between the first and second years of the award provides the Scholars with "hands-on"/ practical educational training experience in NOAA-related science, research, technology, policy, management, and education activities. Awards also include travel funds to attend a mandatory Hollings Scholarship Program orientation, conferences where students present a paper or poster, and a housing subsidy for scholars who do not reside at home during the summer internship.

For more information: http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/Hollings_info.html

Student Opportunities...

- Volunteering at a WFO- Hands on invaluable experience in a forecast office
- Jobs are getting more and more competitive, so any advantage you have the better.

Questions?

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