Southwest Geophysical Consulting, LLC
(505) 585-2550 • info@swgeophys.com

Field Geoscientist Seasonal Internship
Late Summer / Early Fall 2026

6-week paid seasonal internship; exact start and end dates to be determined based on project schedule and candidate availability.

Southwest Geophysical Consulting, LLC (SWG) is offering a paid Field Geoscientist Internship for late summer / early fall 2026. SWG specializes in cave location, cave mapping, and karst characterization using geophysical methods—primarily electrical resistivity imaging, ground-penetrating radar, electromagnetic methods, magnetometry, drone imagery, and field-based karst assessment. Most of our work is conducted in southeastern New Mexico and throughout the American Southwest. A job offer at the end of the internship is possible if the intern, SWG, and project needs are all aligned.

This is a field-focused internship. The intern will work alongside experienced staff, learning SWG procedures and helping with survey setup, data collection, equipment handling, and field notes. When not in the field, basic project support tasks may be assigned. Karst and/or geophysics experience is preferred but not required—we are willing to train the right person who has strong field aptitude, attention to detail, reliability, and genuine interest in the work.

Local or regional candidates—including students from UNM, NMT, NM State, or candidates in the Albuquerque or Carlsbad, NM areas—are strongly preferred. Candidates outside the area may be considered if available for field deployments; however, SWG will not cover relocation, temporary housing, or other living expenses when the intern is not deployed in the field.

What You'll Do in the Field

- **Survey setup:** Assist with staking and flagging survey lines, placing electrodes or sensors, managing cable layouts, maintaining spacing and alignment, and supporting field setup as directed by the Field Lead.
- **Equipment operation and data collection:** Assist with geophysical field instruments under supervision. Follow acquisition protocols carefully and learn how field setup affects data quality.
- **Karst and site observations:** Observe and document surface conditions relevant to karst, subsurface investigation, access, safety, and field interpretation, including sinkholes, drainages, exposed bedrock, disturbed ground, utilities, and active infrastructure. As project needs allow, assist with borehole camera setup and downhole photo or video organization.
- **GPS, mapping, and field documentation:** Support GPS data collection, field mapping, photographs, field notes, equipment logs, and documentation of survey conditions or deviations from planned procedures.
- **Equipment care and logistics:** Assist with packing, loading, unloading, cleaning, organizing, and maintaining field equipment. Help identify equipment issues early and communicate them to the Field Lead.
- **Site safety and general support:** Follow SWG safety protocols, wear appropriate field clothing and required PPE, communicate hazards, and help maintain a safe working

environment. Report environmental concerns (spills, staining, odors, unsafe conditions) to the Field Lead. Carry gear, set up and break down work areas, and help complete daily field objectives.

What You'll Learn

- **SWG field protocols:** Survey setup, data collection, safety, equipment handling, field notes, data organization, and project handoff.
- **Geophysical methods and karst workflow:** Gain exposure to electrical resistivity imaging and, as project needs allow, ground-penetrating radar, electromagnetic methods, and magnetometry. Learn how field observations, geophysical data, surface mapping, and site conditions support cave and karst characterization.
- **Data quality and professional field expectations:** Understand why careful spacing, consistent procedures, clear notes, photographs, GPS points, and organized files are essential to professional technical reporting. Learn what it takes to work effectively on a small field team in demanding outdoor conditions.

What We're Looking For

We hire for capability, attitude, and interest in the work. A strong candidate does not need to already know SWG methods, but must meet the education requirement below and be willing to learn carefully and work hard in the field.

Education and Background

- **Education requirement:** Completion of, or current progress toward, a bachelor's degree in geology, geoscience, geophysics, geography, earth science, physical science, environmental science, hydrology, physics, or a closely related field is required.
- Prior field, outdoor, construction, survey, caving, military, environmental, or technical work experience is a plus.
- Karst, cave, and/or geophysics experience is preferred, but not required.

Technical Skills

- Comfort learning field equipment setup, troubleshooting, and basic equipment care.
- Familiarity with GPS, Google Earth, QGIS, ArcGIS, or other mapping tools is a plus. Basic proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel is preferred.
- Good written communication skills and willingness to maintain clear, complete field notes.

Personal Qualities

- **Reliable and detail-oriented:** Show up on time, follow through on assignments, and communicate issues early. Geophysical data quality depends on precise, consistent field execution—small field errors can create large data problems.
- **Team-oriented and self-motivated:** Field work is collaborative and often requires initiative and practical problem-solving. You will work closely with a small team during long field days and overnight deployments.
- **Flexible and adaptable:** Field schedules, weather, site conditions, travel plans, and project priorities can change. Adjust while maintaining a positive, safety-focused attitude.

- **Comfortable outdoors:** You should be comfortable working in rough terrain, heat, dust, insects, reptiles, bats, caves, sinkholes, active infrastructure, and other realities of field work in the American Southwest.

Physical Requirements

This is a physically demanding internship. Field work usually requires:

- Lifting and carrying 30 to 50 lbs of field equipment.
- Walking several miles per day over uneven, rocky, sandy, or vegetated terrain, including brush, thorns, cacti, and other desert vegetation.
- Working 10- to 12-hour field days (occasionally longer), in heat, cold, wind, dust, rain, and remote outdoor environments, with multiple consecutive nights away from home during field deployments.
- Wearing appropriate field clothing and required PPE. Specialized PPE (FR clothing, hard hats, high-visibility vests, H2S monitors, or other site-specific gear) will be provided if needed.
- Driving long distances or traveling to remote project locations. Working in or around karst features, including caves, sinkholes, exposed limestone, and rough ground surfaces.

A valid driver's license and reliable transportation to the reporting location are required. Interns will not operate SWG vehicles or drones unless SWG determines an exception is appropriate and all authorization and training requirements are satisfied. No FAA Part 107, HAZWOPER, or other specialized certification is required unless SWG assigns a specific project need.

Internship Outcome and Career Development

Strong interns who demonstrate reliability, field aptitude, technical curiosity, and a positive team attitude may be considered for a job offer at the end of the internship. Potential long-term pathways include Field Technician, Field Geoscientist, Field Lead, or the Field Geoscientist Project Manager development track, depending on the candidate's education, skills, interests, and SWG project needs.

Compensation

- **Paid internship:** $800 per week for a 6-week internship term.
- **Field per diem:** $74 per day while deployed in the field.
- **Field accommodations:** Lodging is covered for all field deployments (Airbnb, shared rental, hotel, or similar). Interns will have their own individual room.
- **Travel and lodging:** Project-related travel and field lodging coordinated per SWG field policies. SWG does not cover relocation, temporary housing, or other living expenses when the intern is not deployed.
- **Benefits:** Temporary seasonal interns are not eligible for full-time employee benefits.

To Apply

Submit a resume and/or CV, brief cover letter, and three references to info@swgeophys.com. Tell us why you are interested, what field or outdoor experience you have, and any experience or interest in geology, geophysics, caves, karst, mapping, or environmental fieldwork. Generic applications without a cover letter may not be considered.