MWR Department welcomes students for internships in the following academic areas or related areas:

- Parks & Recreation Administration/Leadership
- Commercial Recreation
- Outdoor Recreation
- Physical Education
- Sports/Fitness Management
- Event Management
- Marketing/Public Relations

- 35 miles north of downtown Chicago
- 25 minutes from O'Hare Airport
- 50 miles from Milwaukee
Naval Station (NS), Great Lakes, trains and prepares thousands of sailors in various occupations. Since the Navy recognizes that leisure activities are an essential element in the retention and physical and mental well being of Navy personnel, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department has a very vital and important role to play in the lives of military personnel.

The overall mission of the MWR Department is to provide Navy personnel and their dependents with varied programs of wholesome and constructive off-duty leisure activities. Included in this mission is the orientation and instruction of all eligible users as to what recreation is, what is available and how to become a part of it through participation. Alternatives to substance abuse and boredom, physical readiness, family happiness and customer satisfaction are integral parts of the total MWR mission.

MWR at Great Lakes provides a variety of leisure activities to a very diverse population, serving a population of approximately 25,000 active duty military, their dependents, drilling reservists, retired military and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians. The MWR Department employs over 300 employees and is considered one of the largest MWR Departments in the Navy. The annual operating budget is over 17 million dollars. MWR’s many branches and facilities provide a wide variety of leisure activities, which include a bowling center, marina, golf course, library, tickets and travel office, gymnasia, indoor pools, beach, fitness centers, outdoor recreation, climbing wall, enlisted recreation center, movie theater, softball fields, banquet/conference center along with numerous special events. In addition, a personnel, accounting and a marketing branch provide support services.

- 1.6M customer visits
- Nearly 800,000 square feet of facilities
- 150 acres of recreational green space
- CNIC MWR 5 Star Accreditation
- Internationally recognized “4th of July Celebration”
- 2012 NRPA Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks & Recreation Management - first ever Armed Forces Recreation recipient.

As a potential student intern, there are a variety of opportunities. You may target one specific area of the Department or experience a number of areas. We allow the student to decide what type of experience he or she wishes to receive out of their internship. The MWR Department then works with the student to structure the appropriate schedule to enable them to achieve their goals. There are many benefits in doing an internship with the Navy, one of the most important reasons would be getting involved with an organization which is world-wide. Since the 1980’s, the Navy has been recruiting qualified recreation students for internships at bases all over the world. A number of successful interns are now MWR recreation professionals, helping to shape the future of MWR Navy-wide. You too can be one of those people!

Your internship will be the most important experience in your academic career. Making the right decision is very important, and we at Great Lakes MWR, would be happy to assist you in any way. For an internship application, visit our web site at www.NavyLifeGLcom. If you have any question concerning an internship, or if you are interested in visiting Great Lakes, please contact:

Elisabeth Weaver, MWR Department-Bldg. 1, Rm 129 Naval Station, 2601E Paul Jones Street, Great Lakes, IL 60088

(847) 688-2020, ext. #404

Benefits of the MWR Great Lakes Internship Program:

- Salary: $12.50/hr - 40/wk
- Privileges to use the Navy Exchange (NEX), on base tax free shopping
- Training Courses
- Available usage at all recreational facilities including: fitness center, movie theater, marina, beach, climbing wall (some fees may apply)
- The Total Internship Experience