



Board for Operational Government Meteorologists

Jobs Application Tips & Tricks

Introduction

So, you'd like to begin an operational meteorology career in the government? As someone interested in starting a career in government operational meteorology, the application process and the competition that goes with each position can seem like an insurmountable task. Having gone through the process we realize that knowledge is power when it comes to learning what it takes to navigate the hiring process.

Thus, the Board for Operational Government Meteorologists held a webinar a few years ago to provide prospective applicants with some insight into the application process from those who have been successful in gaining their respective roles. The goal was to provide you with some valuable tips and some items that they wished they had known in order to give you a better chance of success. This document includes advice from several of the webinar panelists along with some updated answers and information. Plus, there are a couple of new faces that were nice enough to take the time to offer their words of advice. Please take a moment to read over these experiences and feel free to reach out to the individuals who have offered their stories.

Building a network and finding mentors along your journey can help you to build exposure to those working within an agency which you may soon wish to become a part of. As you do this, feel free to ask for tips on your resume, about interview techniques, and what they potentially did (or did not do) to gain the attention of hiring officials leading into the overall process.

We hope that Tips and Tricks document is useful, and wish you the best in achieving your goal of starting your career as an operational government meteorologist.

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Tips

The biggest tip for prospective students is to get your foot into the door! Whether this is a paid Pathways position or being a volunteer, having exposure to NWS operations prior to applying will be very beneficial.

Bio

I graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2007 with a B.S. in Meteorology and a Mathematics Minor. During my time, I worked as an undergraduate research assistant for NSSL/WRDD, volunteered at NWS Norman and was an active participant in the Oklahoma Weather Lab (OWL) forecasting organization.

For my graduate work, I attended the University of Alabama in Huntsville and received my M.S. in Atmospheric Science in 2011. At UAH, I operated a Polarimetric C-Band radar on a variety of convective modes and completed my thesis on Deep Moist Convection across Northern Alabama during the Deep Convective Clouds and Chemistry Experiment (DC3). I also volunteered at NWS Huntsville where I became upper air certified via the NWS in Birmingham.

After graduation in 2013, I worked for a private weather firm in Houston, TX for about 6 months before I moved onto the NWS full-time. My first full-time NWS position was as a Meteorologist Intern at NWS Fort Worth/Dallas in June of 2014. Roughly a year later, I was promoted to General Forecaster. In spring of 2020 I was promoted to the position of Lead Meteorologist at NWS Fort Worth/Dallas.

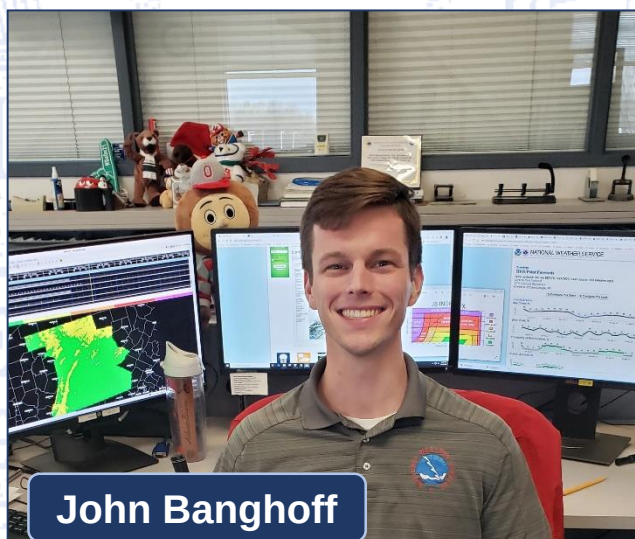
I wish I had known...

I wish coming out as an undergraduate I was prepared for how competitive it would be and how much more experience I needed. It's not impossible to get into the NWS with a B.S. and relevant job experience, however!

Bio

My name is John Banghoff, and I currently work at the NWS WFO in State College, PA, where I have been for the last two years. I received a BS in Atmospheric Sciences from The Ohio State University. Through the course of my undergraduate work, I was fortunate to gain experience at NWS Wilmington, OH, NWS Atlanta, GA (Hollings), Franklin County (Columbus, OH) Emergency Management, WSYX/WTTE (Columbus, OH), and the Columbus Crew Soccer Club (Major League Soccer). As I was finishing my undergrad, I was still unsure of what I wanted to do with my life, so I decided to go to grad school.

I got my MS in Meteorology from Penn State, where I worked on clear-air radar phenomena including using dual-pol radar to estimate boundary layer depth and developing a radar-based climatology of horizontal convective rolls in Central OK. Volunteering at NWS State College was an invaluable opportunity that undoubtedly influenced my eventual job offer from the office while I was finishing up grad school work.



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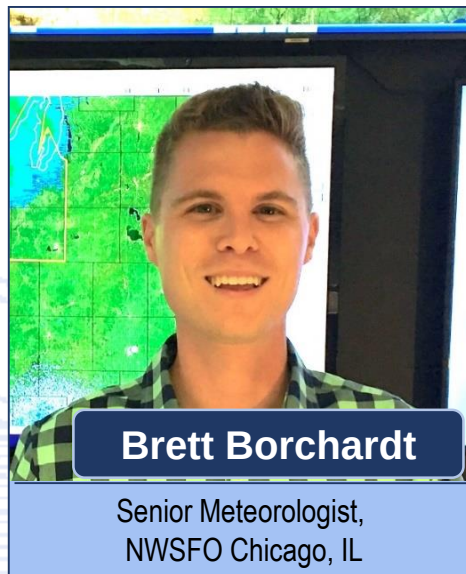
Tips

Get into an NWS office! Volunteer, job shadow, apply for the Hollings Scholarship, apply for Pathways. Whatever it takes, get experience at an NWS office. I believe my experience at 3 different offices through undergrad and grad school was vital. Secondly, attend conferences like NWA to network with NWS folks and consider going to grad school. Getting hired at the NWS is competitive, but if you can make a good impression and have high-quality references, your chances will greatly increase.

Bio

Growing up in the Chicago metropolitan area, I had the pleasure of experiencing a wide array of weather phenomena ranging from nocturnal mesoscale convective systems, raging January snowstorms, blustery fall storms, and even occasional tornado outbreaks. My boyhood interest in weather developed into a flame of fascination which burns in earnest inside of me today.

I graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology in May of 2016 and worked toward a Masters degree in Meteorology at North Carolina State University from August of 2016 to August of 2017. I did not finish my Masters work, as I applied for and was offered a position with the National Weather Service prior to completing my degree. Indeed, I started my career with the NWS in September of 2017 at WFO Marquette, MI as a meteorologist intern. In May of 2018 (and after 175 inches of snow), I was promoted to general forecaster at WFO Grand Rapids, MI. In February of 2020, I transferred to WFO Chicago, IL, which is where I continue to work today under the position title of "senior meteorologist." I have varied interests in meteorology, but am most interested in severe convective weather with an emphasis on mesoscale convective systems. I currently serve on the National Weather Association's Weather & Forecasting Committee, and enjoy working with students.



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I wish I had known...

I wish I understood the mental toll that can come with being an operational government meteorologist. Working odd hours, during weekends, and occasionally on holidays can create feelings of mental anguish and distance from your loved ones. If you are serious about becoming a government operational meteorologist, make sure you are able to develop or already have a healthy social network, exercise routine, and positive attitude to combat spells of mental negativity. With all of that said, knowing you alone can use your passion to make a positive difference in the lives of others is incredibly rewarding and worth it.

Tips

There is a concept in the working world called "PIE" - Performance, Image, and Exposure. To be a qualified candidate for any job, one must be able to perform the needed work and maintain a professional image. However, the largest slice of the "PIE" is exposure, as all your hard work toward your performance and image would mean nothing if nobody knows who you are. As such, the most important tip I can offer to those with an aspiration to get hired as a government meteorologist, or in any job field really, is to build and maintain a diverse and robust network across the entire community, spanning across the academic, private, and government sectors. There is no doubt in my mind that the network I continue to maintain has been an integral part of my success, ranging from preparing for my first interview at WFO Marquette to my current position at WFO Chicago. Also, be careful with what you post on social media and indeed how you convey your image. You would be surprised at how far tweets can reach.

Bio

My name is Trevor Boucher. I am a Regional Response and Preparedness Specialist at the NWS Western Region Headquarters in Salt Lake. This is my 5th NWS location I have been to since 2008 (Las Vegas, Lubbock, Nashville, Austin/San Antonio). I received my bachelor's degree in Geophysics and masters in Atmospheric Science from Texas Tech University.

I came into the NWS by simply asking questions. I asked the WCM at a spotter talk if there were any internships/volunteer opportunities, and he let me know. I volunteered for two full years before an opportunity for a paid internship came up. While in school I also minored in American Sign Language, which come to find out was exactly what my first full time office was looking for (Nashville), even more so than my weather background. From then till now, I have made a career out of specialized outreach for the Deaf.

Trevor Boucher

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Tips

It's easy to think that being the best meteorologist with the highest grades and top forecasting scores are impressive and will get you the job you want. It won't. The tough reality is the 2nd best meteorologist with a resume of varying other specialties actually has more value. What do YOU do that nobody else does? It may not seem to be a direct connection to your job, but don't forget, the weather affects everything. How does the weather interact with your uniqueness, and how could it help others?

Also, the federal government is a bureaucracy. What is a bureaucracy? It's people. Lots and lots of cooks in the kitchen. So you NEED to know how to interact, work in teams, be inclusive, and be respectful. There are literally no individual accomplishments in the NWS.

If you don't or you won't, your maximum potential is like winning a sports scoring title but never winning the championship. Over time, you have a track record of being one-dimensional and it never translating to team success. So teams become much less inclined to bring you on over time, despite your talent. Especially if you go to social media to complain about your playing time.

I wish I had known...

I wish I had some better understanding of what constitutes a good NWS resume early on. I had to take some humbling feedback to get it right. Vet yours through as many hiring officials as you can. Their feedback is gold.

Also, an interview is more about getting to know you than it is testing your competency. Your resume implies that. That's why you got the interview. So it's not about getting the correct answers to questions you don't know off the top of your head. It's about how you react to the question. ***Relax and be honest.***

Learn more about Trevor's outreach for the Deaf and hard of hearing community in [this recent NOAA Education article.](#)

Visit **usajobs.gov** for the latest openings.

Popular job series for meteorologist candidates:

1340-Meteorology

1315-Hydrology

1301-General Physical Science

Bio

I am Matthew Bunkers and have worked as the Science and Operations Officer at the NWS in Rapid City, SD, since 2003. Prior to that, I was a forecaster at the same office since 1994. I was fortunate to get this job immediately upon graduation from SDSMT in the fall of 1993. Otherwise, I grew up on a dairy farm in eastern South Dakota, which gave me an appreciation for hard work and as well as working non-routine hours.

I wish I had known...

It would have been nice to know from the outset that things can move really slow in the government, which is frustrating. Also, the incentive to work hard isn't there for everyone, and knowing that in advance would have helped me better adjust my expectations of others.



Dr. Matt Bunkers

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Tips

It is important to have a Master's degree as well as a diverse background (e.g., meteorology, computer skills, graphics design, sociology, etc.). Be a hard worker and focus on your performance instead of worrying about what others are doing. Be willing to move to different offices, and also be flexible in what you are willing to do (i.e., don't type-cast yourself as more of a science person than an outreach person, and vice versa). Always have a balance of projects to work on, and develop strong time-management skills.



Ryan Ellis

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Bio

My name is Ryan Ellis, and I am currently the Science and Operations Officer at the NWS forecast office in Morehead City, North Carolina. My current position oversees a lot of what is happening on the operations floor and also what is going on in the research community that will eventually make its way to the ops floor. My job is to give the forecasters what they need to do their jobs, which includes training, implementing new technology, and working on local research projects to solve local forecasting problems. Prior to this position, I was a forecaster at the NWS office in Raleigh, NC for 10 years. I have a B.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Miami, and an M.S. in Meteorology from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

I wish I had known...

- 1.) You can do everything right and still not get the job. There are so many factors that go into the process that you cannot control. Don't get discouraged just keep going. A rejection is not necessarily because of something you did wrong.
- 2.) This may take a while. If you don't get a job right away, find ways to stay engaged in the field so you are ready when the next opportunity comes.

Tips

- 1.) Patience! This is a competitive field with a lot of applicants coming out of college.
- 2.) Learn the application process for the job you want to apply to. Knowledge of the system is power when it comes to getting your application in front of the hiring officials.
- 3.) Connect with those in the field you want to join. They can help you with the application process and it also helps to start to build a network within the field.
- 4.) You have to sell yourself. ALWAYS do more than the minimum. Write a cover letter, even if it says you don't have to. Reach out to the management in the office you want to go to. Create a personal website showcasing your skills and abilities.

Tips

- Be open-minded and willing to explore your knowledge, abilities and skills (KSAs) throughout your career! New things happen every day and you will never know what will be in stores for you, if you don't try.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help and accept criticism. People want to see you succeed and improve yourself.

Bio

I am currently a GS-9 forecaster at NWS Pendleton. Born and raised from Lithonia, GA, my fascination with meteorology did not start until my family and I moved to Jacksonville, FL back in the mid-2000s. There, I stumbled upon a book called Tornadoes and realized how real they were. Watching the Weather Channel and reading weather books growing up helped enhance my knowledge on severe weather and even a few geological topics such as tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes. My all-time favorite TV meteorologist has been Jim Cantore because of how simple his words are when explaining various weather events for the general public to understand. And from that moment, my fascination became a dream goal.

My journey began after participating in weather camp and the Summer Bridge program at Jackson State University (JSU). There, I later earned a BS in Meteorology with a minor in Mathematics in May 2020. Attending an HBCU school was a real revelation for me as I acknowledge the importance of being part of my community and supporting people like me in this field. Beside severe weather, I eventually developed a secondary interest for meteorological instrumentation through my summer internships (National Weather Service, NOAA Centers for Environmental Prediction, etc.). I also received a MS in Atmospheric Science at The University of Huntsville (UAH) in May 2023, where I conducted in-depth research on the observational investigation on the mesovortex and associated tornado within Quasi-Linear Convective System (QLCS) for the April 12, 2020 case for my masters capstone.

I even have performed upper air soundings while acquiring meteorological data and analyses with UAH Profile Sounding Team for Operational & Research Meteorology (UPSTORM), American Meteorological Society/National Weather Association (AMS/NWA) Student Chapter and during field deployments including the Propagation, Evolution, and Rotation in Linear Storms (PERiLS) Field Campaign. I also had the opportunity to operate with Mobile Integrated Profiling System (MIPS) and other meteorological instrumentation, educated Research Experience Undergraduate (REU) interns about my research experiences and past summer internships, and virtually volunteered for NWS Jackson. During my education, I gained research & outreach experiences through internships, fellowships, campus involvement and professional organizations. And thanks to the knowledge and perseverance I still carry, my dream of becoming a meteorologist had finally come true after 20 years of hard work and effort.

I wish I had known...

The importance of learning to code in Python much sooner. My first time learning it was in graduate school and it was too complex for me to fully comprehend. Therefore, I had to get through that with extra help from my classmates and my coding professor. You might not need it as much for forecasting, but definitely in research.



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Bio

Elyse is the Annual Planning and Performance Lead within the National Weather Service's Office of Planning and Programming for Service Delivery. In this role, she leads the process to develop the National Weather Service's Annual Operating Plan by coordinating priorities and milestones across the organization. She also works to communicate National Weather Service performance to NOAA and the Department of Commerce and assists in coordinating National Weather Service input for NOAA and Department of Commerce strategic planning. Elyse previously served as the Organizational Health and Culture Lead at National Weather Service's Office of Organizational Excellence (OOE), working to improve the organizational health of the NWS while understanding and supporting a high-performing workforce culture to achieve strategic goals.

Elyse began her career with NOAA as a NWS student intern (SCEP) during college before accepting a full-time position at the State College, PA Weather Forecast Office. From there, she worked as a forecaster at WFO Morristown, TN before joining the NWS Headquarters team in 2018. While working as a forecaster, she led local partner engagement teams, organized a student volunteer program with Penn State, and served as a field representative on the National Weather Service Operations and Workforce Analysis (OWA) Workforce team. She is a 2018 graduate of AMS Policy Colloquium and a 2019 graduate of the AMS Early Career Leadership Program. Outside of the office, she previously served as a member of the AMS Culture and Inclusion Cabinet, AMS Early Career Leadership Academy (ECLA) Planning Committee, and NWA Social Media Committee. A Pittsburgh native, she currently lives just outside of Washington D.C. with her husband and son.



Elyse Hagner

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Positions are highly competitive—if you don't make a hiring panel for the first position you apply for, *don't give up!* Get feedback and improve your application/skills for future positions.

Tips

- 1) Everyone has a meteorology degree -- be sure to highlight what sets you apart on your cover letter and resume. What are your additional skills and talents? (communications, GIS, computer science, web design, teaching others, whatever!)
- 2) Know that if you want to join the NWS, you will likely be working rotating shifts/holidays/weekends at some point in your career. Everyone handles shiftwork differently and some find it easier than others. It's important to establish healthy habits (sleep, exercise, nutrition) and a good work-life integration.
- 3) Be open to new experiences! Chances are, you won't get an entry-level job in your hometown. Government jobs are highly competitive, so you increase your odds if you're willing to move to new places.
- 4) If you're still a student, look for career experience and scholarship opportunities. Within NOAA, this includes SeaGrant Fellowships, the Hollings Scholarship Program, the Lapenta NWS Student Internship Program, unpaid volunteer opportunities, and research grants. There are also government-wide paid internship opportunities that can translate to a full-time position after graduation through the Pathways Internship, Recent Graduates, and Presidential Management Fellows Programs.
- 5) Having a mentor is huge! If you have a mentor who is already a government employee, they can help keep an eye and ear out for job and internship opportunities, suggest relevant training opportunities, and review your application materials. If possible, have a supervisor in the agency you want to join review your government resume before submitting your application—government resumes are different from private sector resumes and you'll want to include a lot more information. Someone with hiring experience can give you honest feedback and catch areas where you need to supply more information.



Bio

My name is Lt. Cmdr. Kellen Jones, PhD, USN. I am a Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Officer currently serving as Military Faculty in the Meteorology Department at the Naval Postgraduate School. I grew up in Ontario, CA, and earned a BA in Geography from UCLA, an MS in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography, and a PhD in Meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School. My research focus has been on applying probabilistic modeling to sub-seasonal to seasonal weather and climate prediction, and decision support. I have served over 14 years in the Navy as a warfare officer and meteorologist at sea and ashore, including three deployments on USS McCAMPBELL (DDG 85) and USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8). I am also a Certified Consulting Meteorologist by the American Meteorological Society.

Ever since I was a small child, I have been fascinated by maps. My favorite gifts were new atlases that I could stare at for hours. My love for maps grew to a love for the natural environment, which led to studying geography in college. After joining the Navy, the weather profession came calling, and I never looked back. The Navy has afforded me so many opportunities, including paying for three degrees. And now, I am living the dream of teaching Meteorology and Climatology to Naval Officers on their path to becoming the Navy's newest Meteorologists and Oceanographers.

In my off time, I enjoy raising my two children, Christopher and Luna, with my wife, Diana, in beautiful Monterey, CA. We enjoy hiking, SCUBA diving, and surfing.

Kellen Jones

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I wish I had known...

Networking and social skills matter. These days, everyone is highly qualified. What might set you apart is your ability to network effectively. Moreover, the key to getting things done sometimes is who you know and your ability to navigate relationships. Being able to pick up the phone and know who to call is often the key to success. Invest time in relationships; it matters!

Tips

Keep reaching for new experiences and opportunities. Never get too comfortable where you are in life and always strive to try something new. You never know what opportunities you'll find.



Bio

My name is Andrew Kobularcik, and I am from the great state of Kansas. Currently I am a Flight Chief at the weather shop in the 97th Operations Support Squadron at Altus AFB, OK. The way I became a meteorologist was by joining the United States Air Force. After basic training, I was shipped off to Keesler AFB, MS, where I underwent an intense eight month training program for meteorology. After this training, I went to my first duty station at Scott AFB, IL, where I would learn the craft by partaking in a two year on the job training program where I would get more hands on time writing forecasts and issuing advisories, watches, and warnings. From Scott AFB, IL, I went back to Keesler AFB, MS, where I became an instructor at the Weather Training Complex. I spent the next four years teaching meteorology to students from the Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and around the world. After my teaching assignment, I was then assigned to Offutt AFB, NE for about three years, where I was in charge of a twenty-four person team of civilians and military where we primarily focused on models and tailored meteorological applications.

Andrew Kobularcik

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Bio (continued)

Now I find myself at Altus AFB, OK, where I lead a team of nine individuals providing tailored weather support for the base and C-17, KC-135, and KC-46 training. The past 13 years have been quite the journey, and I feel that the Air Force is a good path to take if you are interested in becoming a Meteorologist.

I wish I had known...

I honestly wish I would have known about my options sooner. If I would have joined right out of High School, I would have been 5 years closer to retirement.

Tips

The easiest path, in my mind, to becoming a government meteorologist is to join one of the branches that offer a meteorology path. Put in enough time and you get to use the G.I. bill to further your meteorology education, if so you choose. Also, if you put in 20 years, you will be able to retire from the service with a pension and enough experience to open doors to endless possibilities.

Bio

Alek Krautmann is a program analyst and science advisor for NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) headquarters in Washington DC. He has also served as a NOAA Program Coordination Officer in providing senior staff support to the office of the NOAA administrator and as a policy advisor for satellites and environmental data. Prior to work in DC, Alek was a meteorologist at the NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge office. He was previously a Research Associate with the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP), which is a NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments team at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey in Norman, OK. Alek works to promote an informed society: one that anticipates and is able to respond to the weather and climate hazards in our world.

Alek is originally from St. Louis, MO. He is a graduate of Ohio University (M.S. Geography) and the University of Oklahoma (B.S. Meteorology), including a semester abroad at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. He completed the AMS Summer Policy Colloquium in 2011, Early Career Leadership Academy in 2019, previously served on the Student Conference Planning Committee, and is currently on the AMS Committee on Applied Climatology. Outside of work, Alek enjoys swimming, biking, and running with the November Project.

Alek Krautmann



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I wish I had known...

Any government position is public service. There is a larger purpose for the common good of all citizens, which makes the mission of various agencies so special. This also makes inclusivity especially important in government work. For government jobs specifically, your application and experiences need to align closely with the listing and mission of the agency. Think comprehensively about how your experience is relevant to the job in question and carefully document all aspects. An understanding of the larger organization and how your role fits in is important.

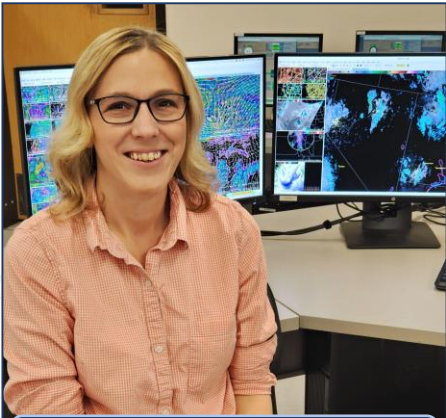
Government jobs are more flexible than you might think. For example, switching between programs or offices in DC is relatively common. So are detail positions, which are temporary assignments to a different position.

Tips

- Keep your interests broad – like environmental sciences in general.
- Build your toolbox – be interdisciplinary.
- Seek new experiences.
- Stay informed of news and current events.
- How do your interests fit into your potential field? How is your field changing?
- Gain more familiarity with professional organizations like AMS, NWA, and AGU.
- Volunteer! Be a servant leader in your community.
- Strive to be a servant leader in your professional activities.

Bio

I am the classic meteorologist, someone who developed a deep love of weather at a very young age. When Hurricane Gloria's eye came over my home in Connecticut when I was 5, I was hooked. I have a BS in Meteorology from Penn State. When I graduated, there was a federal hiring freeze, so I started my career in the private sector at two different companies. In 2003, I was thrilled to start my first National Weather Service job at the Aviation Weather Center in Kansas City, MO. In 2006, I shifted focus to the Weather Forecast Office in Salt Lake City, UT and I have been there ever since, first as a General Forecaster (now called a Meteorologist) and then as a Lead Meteorologist. I wear a lot of hats, ranging from running shifts to leading our local climate program to leading our Impact Decision Support Services and Deployment Ready Teams. Being a meteorologist in the NWS requires a diversity of skills!



Christine Kruse

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Tips

Make sure you have someone proofread your cover letter and resume. Cover letters are VITAL. On large panels, a great cover letter helps you stand out from the crowd. Make a checklist of every minor detail you need to include on your resume. Things like "I am a US Citizen" and for men, your selective service information needs to be included or you will not make the panel. Be patient! Federal hiring takes a long time. Get all the experience you can! If you graduate and are having trouble getting your dream job in the government, try to stay in the field as much as you can. Having relevant experience is important. Include reference contact information and make sure you are providing people who will give you both a thorough and positive reference. Nothing sinks an application faster than a reference either not remembering you more than you were in their class or having less than positive things to say about you. Make sure you understand the agency's values including a focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. If you make it to the interview stage, there will be questions on those topics. And finally, I cannot say it enough, make sure someone proofreads your cover letter and resume!

I wish I had known...

I did some things right. I went into the private sector to get some experience rather than keep applying for positions without working in the field. This helped a lot! I didn't realize, though, the toll shift work takes on you when I was younger. I wish that I had known what I was getting myself into a bit more. Shift work is hard on relationships, your family and your health. If you decide to continue on a path to an operational meteorology position, make sure you go in with a mindset that you too will have to work rotating shifts as part of the position. If shift work isn't for you, there are so many other opportunities! In the federal government, there are positions in many other agencies. Don't be afraid to look and see what else is out there!



Evan Kuchera

Chief of Science and Services,
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Bio

I am the Chief of Science and Services for the 16th Weather Squadron in the US Air Force. 16 WS provides 24/7 automated model-generated environmental information for operational decision making in the DoD.

I have worked in this organization my entire career, starting as an intern on mission support algorithm testing and development, then working in regional modeling and ensembles for about a decade, and now partnering with other leaders in the organization to both bring science advancements in, while working with users to ensure they get maximum benefit of the information that comes out. Over time I have evolved interests in organizational and collaborative philosophy and apply those where I can.

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Tips

Evan Kuchera

Continued

Add additional skills like software development, cyber security, data science, etc to your talent stack. Show via your activities that you can work well with diverse groups of people. Network by showing an interest in what prospective organizations are all about. Be proactive in everything, don't wait for opportunities to come to you.

I wish I had known...

Recognize that if you are creative and innovative that it will always be an uphill battle against the status quo, but someone has to push the government forward. Partner with others who are like-minded, as facing and defeating challenges as a team is very rewarding.

Bio

My name is Katie Magee and I am currently the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Huntsville, AL. Prior to that, I worked as an NWS meteorologist in Huntsville, AL and Houston, TX, as well as a Pathways Student Intern at the Meteorological Development Lab at NWS Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, working on NBM and MOS development. Fascinated by weather since I was a young child, it was easy for me to attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC for her B.S. in Meteorology since I grew up just outside of Raleigh. Afterwards, I went on to get my M.S. in Earth Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Charlotte, NC with a thesis focusing on supercell interaction with surface boundaries.

In my current role as Science and Operations Officer, I oversee the training, research, and program management at the local NWS office in Huntsville, AL. Additionally, I serve as Affiliate Faculty at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, instructing the Advanced Forecasting for Decision Support Services course and frequently guest lecturing in other undergraduate and graduate courses. I volunteer and serve on the Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committees for both AMS and NWA. Outside of work, I enjoy exploring new restaurants and breweries across the Tennessee Valley and attending live theater.



Katie Magee

Science and Operations Officer
NWSFO Huntsville, AL

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Tips

Don't be afraid to take those long shots! Run for club president, apply for the dream internship, try learning a new skill. Having a diverse background and unique skills will help make you more competitive for job openings.

As for specific skills to develop or amplify, give yourself opportunities to demonstrate how you work as a team member, as well as a team leader. Strong communication skills are where the NWS is headed. It is not enough to make a good forecast if no one knows about it. Show that you are able to tell your forecast in a way that the public can understand; this could be by taking some communication courses, volunteering at a broadcast station, or maintaining your own social media presence or weather blog. Do not be afraid to make a mistake; own up to it and learn from it. These types of answers to interview questions are often more impressive than saying you always have your act together, because no one ever does.

Specific Resume and Interview Tips:

- Do not worry about GPA! People focus more on what types of classes you took rather than what grades you got.
- Always include a cover letter!
- Do not just list clubs, activities, and volunteer positions on your resume, but rather speak to what your roles were and how you helped advance the mission.
- When interviewing, write down the questions asked so that you do not forget to answer one part of it.
- Back up every interview answer with examples.
- Always ask questions at the end! Do your research, and ask thoughtful questions about the office to show you are invested in office culture.



Dr. Patrick Marsh

Science Support Branch Chief,
Storm Prediction Center, Norman, OK

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Tips

Most people who apply for a government meteorologist job are more than qualified meteorologists. This means the people you will be competing against are going to look very similar on paper.

You need to stand out. Highlight what is unique about your application. What strengths do you bring to the table that other candidates won't have? Have you been involved in training? Tie that into your application. Focus on how you can use that to further the agency's mission. Do you specialize in GIS? Communications? Etc.?

Focus on highlighting how those skill sets can be used to augment your meteorology background.

Don't ever forget what brought you to meteorology. It's easy to lose sight of that and focus on climbing the proverbial "corporate ladder". However, in doing so there are trade offs. You may become less tied to the thing that drew you into meteorology as you focus on additional responsibilities. Make sure you understand and are ready to make those trade offs if you decide to move up the ladder or become a manager/supervisor.

I earned Bachelor of Science degrees in math and physics from the University of Arkansas in 2005. That fall, I came to the University of Oklahoma to begin graduate work. I earned my Master of Science degree in meteorology in 2007 and just finished my doctorate. During my time here at OU, I have been fortunate to get to know Harold Brooks from the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), and he included me in many opportunities within the Norman weather community. In particular, he wanted me to participate in the VORTEX2 project, which connected me with Lou Wicker, who is also at NSSL. Through this networking, I had the unique opportunity to work in the VORTEX2 Operations Center, which led to my eventual position as NSSL liaison for the Hazardous Weather Testbed (HWT). This worked out through partnerships I developed with my mentors Jack Kain and Dave Stensrud, both from NSSL, who also established my graduate student position. I served in the role of NSSL liaison from 2010 to 2013 while also working on my Ph.D. The experiences I had with the HWT allowed me to work closely with staff at the SPC, and these opportunities were instrumental in developing the skill sets I would need to eventually work at the SPC Science Support Branch. Fortunately for me, as I was finishing up my Ph.D., a Techniques Development Meteorologist position opened up in the Science Support Branch at SPC.

I served in the TDM role for three years, focusing on operational shifts, creation of new graphics, and revamping some of SPC's internal GIS processing. In fall of 2016 I became SPC's third WCM. I served in that capacity for three years before being chosen in the summer of 2019 to be SPC's third Science Support Branch Chief.



Bio

I'm a meteorologist at WFO Rapid City, SD. I started as a volunteer at WFO Sioux Falls, SD one summer during college, which helped me get a SCEP position there the following summer. I was able to work at the Rapid City office during school. Once I graduated with my bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Sciences from SDSM&T in Spring 2010, I obtained an intern position at WFO Aberdeen, SD. I spent a little more than a year there, before I was able to transfer back to WFO Rapid City. In Fall 2014, I was promoted from intern to general forecaster.

Tips

Volunteer! Being a student volunteer allowed me to see what working at a NWS WFO would be like and make sure it was what I wanted to do. It also allowed me to show them that I'm willing to work hard, even without being paid. From that summer volunteer experience, I was able to get a letter of recommendation that helped me into the SCEP program (now a slightly different program called Pathways), which ultimately got me a permanent job after graduation.

I wish I had known...

Don't think your college education will provide you with the knowledge you need to work as an NWS meteorologist. There is a ton of on-the-job training, both formal training and just gaining experience, that will be crucial to your development as a forecaster.

Federal Pay Scales:
General Schedule (GS) - 2024
Commerce Alternative Personnel System (CAPS) - 2024
Understanding the difference between pay scales

Bio

I am the Manager of Weather and Streamflow Forecasting at the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland OR, where I lead the team that forecasts weather and streamflows for hydroelectric power planning in the Columbia River Basin, and serve as the agency's technical lead for climate change research. Before coming to BPA, I worked at the National Weather Service at four Weather Forecast Offices. I have a B.S. in Meteorology from Penn State University, and an MPA from the University of Arizona.

I wish I had known...

- How long Federal government hiring takes, how quirky it can be, and how sometimes it doesn't make much sense. Be patient.
- That the job I didn't get at the time was, in hindsight, something that I probably wouldn't have liked, anyway. If you don't get a job, keep trying. An even better one may be right around the corner.
- That interviews are a two-way street, and "interviewing the interviewers" is just as important as them interviewing you. It may help you decide if the job is a good fit, if you'll like working for that manager or agency, and being inquisitive may even land you the job.



Erik Pytlak

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Tips

Applying for government jobs is different! Resumes usually need to be longer. Both resumes and cover letters frequently need to include specific information. Interview processes vary widely, even within the same agency. Jobs can be very competitive, especially in desirable locations. However, persistence pays off. Having a network of mentors and peer hydrometeorologists really pays off!

Do...

- Read Vacancy Announcements carefully, especially for what to include in your resume, cover letter and additional material they may require.
- Include volunteer activities in your resume, especially if it's relevant to the job (e.g. NWS volunteer, TV station volunteer).
- Ask a mentor to review your resume, especially if they are a government manager.
- Practice interviewing with someone who will give you honest feedback. It really helps with interview nervousness, and will help fine-tune your message.
- Send a "Thank You" e-mail the interviewers afterward.
- Include a couple of references, especially former managers and mentors who know you well and will speak highly of you.

Don't...

- Worry about resume length. Unlike the private sector, government jobs almost always require more information, and it could even get you a higher salary/grade if you're selected.
- Forget to submit your most up-to-date college transcript(s). It's one of the most common reasons for applications to be tossed.
- Talk yourself out of applying because the job may be very competitive. You can't win if you don't apply.
- Get discouraged! There are more meteorologists than available jobs, so you will probably need to try a few times to get the job you want, and where you want.

Bio

Nicole is a hydrologist at the National Weather Service Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, GA, where she has been river forecasting for all rivers that drain into the Atlantic Ocean along the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, as well as the rivers that drain into the Gulf of Mexico from Mobile Bay to the southernmost tip of Florida, and providing hydrologic support to Puerto Rico, for two years. In addition to volunteering with BOGM and being a Social Media Subcommittee co-chair, she volunteers with the AMS Board for Early Career Professionals (BECF) and is the Resources Team Subcommittee Lead on the AMS Social Media Committee. She also completed the AMS Early Career Leadership Academy (ECLA) in 2020/2021. Nicole graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and earned a Master of Science degree in Geography from Texas A&M University. Prior to her position at the NWS, Nicole was a Student Trainee Hydrologist (Pathways) and then a Hydrologic Technician at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) New York Water Science Center in Coram, NY, and completed volunteer positions with the USGS and NWS Upton, NY.



**Nicole Casamassina
Rockwell**

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NWS Southeast River Forecast Center,
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Tips

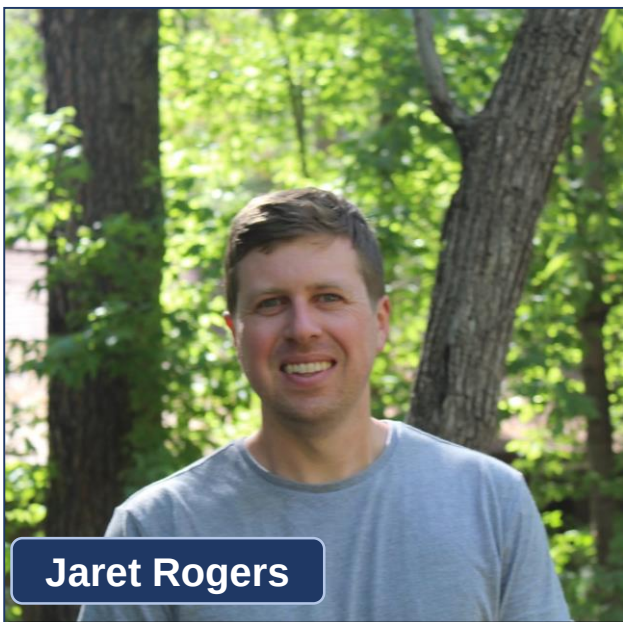
A piece of advice I received in college is to always say yes to opportunities, within reason. You never know that you may love something, or hate something, if you don't try and expose yourself to new things. Take on a volunteer position (and you can look at other agencies besides the NWS), apply for that internship or professional development program (you never know when you'll get a yes), ask questions to mentors (including peers), learn new skills that aren't meteorology-focused (GIS, coding, soft skills), and find what makes you the happiest in your career. However, continuously evaluate what's on your plate. You don't want to take on too much because that can impact your life outside of work. Find the balance that works for you.

I wish I had known...

That there are more career paths than being a meteorologist that are still applicable with a meteorology or atmospheric science degree! My professors in undergrad only told me about meteorologist career paths within NWS and going to grad school to pursue a research-heavy career path, like being a professor. I realized quickly that those options weren't for me, but I had to find my own way in undergrad, grad school, and in my early career to get to where I am now. Being able to combine passions and go "off the path" is possible!

For additional resources on careers, professional development, mentoring and advising, and available jobs visit:

[AMS Career Page](#)



Jaret Rogers

Science and Operations Officer
NSWFO Boise, ID

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Bio

My name is Jaret Rogers, and I'm currently the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Boise, ID. I've previously worked at the NWS Phoenix, Arizona office as a lead meteorologist and a stint as the acting Warning Coordination Meteorologist. Prior to that, I worked at the Storm Prediction Center as a mesoscale assistant forecaster, where I produced national severe and fire weather forecasts. I started my career as a SCEP student (now called Pathways) and meteorologist intern at the NWS Phoenix office.

Growing up in Iowa and Arizona, I was exposed to plenty of exciting weather to fuel my passion for the weather. I distinctly remember severe storms threatening my home on multiple occasions. While most people would become concerned at that threat, my excitement level would go through the roof, which was probably a good indicator that my interest in weather was unusual. Luckily, I was able to translate that into a career studying what I love.

I am currently active in helping promote mentoring and cultural initiatives within the NWS. I'm also involved with the Awards Committee and Weather and Forecasting Committee with the NWA, and the Board of Operational Government Meteorologists with the AMS. I have experience teaching college courses at Arizona State University and Texas Tech University, and with severe weather research. Outside of work, I enjoy playing the drums, coaching baseball, skiing, and spending a lot of time as a parent of three kids.

Tips

Be open to new opportunities and push yourself outside of your comfort zone! Especially early in your career, take advantage of any reasonable opportunity you have to get involved, even if your initial impression is that it doesn't match your interests or skill set. You'll be surprised at how much you'll grow not only your professional skills, but your network as well, which is vital to having a successful career. Those opportunities will compound over time and open up many doors down the road.

I wish I had known...

Earlier in my career, I really wanted to have my whole career trajectory mapped out. In fact, I landed my dream job at the Storm Prediction Center at age 25. I was set! But life has a way of throwing you curveballs, and your passions and interests might (and likely will) change in ways you can't anticipate. Be open to new opportunities, be adaptable, and don't sweat it when something doesn't work out exactly as you hoped for. Persevering in the face of adversity and finding ways to stay motivated and positive, even when it feels like things aren't going your way, will reap big rewards.

Bio

I am a lead meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in San Diego, California, and have been in this position for about two years. I am also earned an online Masters in Emergency Management from Millersville University. Prior to this first full time position, I was a Graduate Assistant for my Masters program on campus at Millersville. I have also had internships with other NWS offices, state government, and local emergency management. Acquiring experiences like these has taken dedication, putting myself out there, and finding my true passion in my work.

Adam Roser

Lead Meteorologist
NWSFO San Diego, CA

I wish I had known...

The process can be quite a lot at times. Try to get as much information as you can, but you don't have to feel that you have to do it all on your own. Reaching out to someone who knows the process can really help. This is not a one page resume type job. I wish I would have known to keep track of all the little things I did that could have applied to the job.

Tips

We often hear the phrase "actions speak louder than words." When pursuing a position in meteorology, I often think of it as "actions (speak?) louder than thoughts." Thoughts are a great starting point to organize and figure out your path. Those that put these thoughts into actions are the ones that separate themselves from the crowd. Familiarize yourself with the duties, qualifications, skills, etc. of your desired position. Most will look on the Internet for a list of some sort, but a phone number or an email of a hiring official would be even better! Making yourself visible like this will create connections and provide a focus on what actions need to be taken to gain this experience. A great example I have seen is when local AMS chapters integrate some of these skills and experiences into their outreach programs. It is great to see these students doing things that I would be doing in my position here in the NWS!



Adam Roser

Continued

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Paul Schlatter

Science and Operations Officer,
NWSFO Boulder, CO

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I wish I had known...

The quality of candidates applying for NWS is absolutely outstanding. It's like applying for grad school at Harvard. Just getting an interview is impressive and it's splitting hairs at that point, so EVERYTHING matters. Your resume needs to be perfect. Your writing samples need to be perfect. Your interview needs to be relaxed, confident, and the right level of enthusiasm. If you fake anything or are not true to yourself, the interview panel will be able to tell.

Bio

I have a BS in Engineering Physics from Westmont College, and an MS in Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma. I started my career with the NWS in Norman, OK at the Warning Decision Training Division (WDTD) in 2003 right out of grad school. I worked there for eight years as an instructor, specializing in severe weather warnings and radar analysis. In 2011, I moved to the Washington D.C. area to work in the NWS's front office. After working with the NWS Director, Deputy Director, and the NOAA Administrator as a Program Coordination Officer (PCO), I became the Deputy Chief of Staff and was the Acting Chief of Staff of the NWS until July 2016.

My passion has always been for Operational meteorology, and since August 2016 I have been the Science and Operations Officer (SOO) of the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Boulder, CO. As SOO, I am responsible for ensuring new science and technology are incorporated into operational products and services. About 1/4 to 1/3 of my role is shift work, which I enjoy very much given the varied climate in Colorado. Radar shifts during the convective season are just about as good as it gets for me.

Tips

Be well-rounded. Hiring officials in the NWS are looking for those that are more than just great at meteorology. Emergency management, broadcast meteorology, other communications... those fields are nice to have when trying to get into NWS.

Volunteer at an office first. You can cold call/email an office near you to see if they are taking on any volunteers.

Bio

My name is Klint Skelly, I am the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Pueblo, Colorado. I graduated from St. Cloud State University (SCSU) in 2014, achieving my Bachelor's of Science in Atmospheric and Hydrologic Sciences. Some things I am proud of during my time at SCSU were founding an AMS chapter, participating in an internship at KARE-11 in the Twin Cities, and creating a vacuum cloud chamber for senior capstone project using pieces of the old "Husky-dar" weather radar. After I graduated from SCSU, I went to Plymouth, New Hampshire where I received a Master's of Science in Applied Meteorology. To make ends meet during graduate school, I worked at McDonald's and a private tutoring company until I was selected for a research assistantship studying high impact hydrologic events and landfalling atmospheric rivers in California. During my time in New Hampshire I volunteered at the CWSU in Nashua, NH. I graduated from Plymouth State University in 2016. My first job out of grad school was a Frontline Engineer with Raytheon located at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, MD – I was essentially a first contact IT person for the National Weather Service. After only 5 months of working with Raytheon, I started as an Intern Meteorologist at the NWS in Pueblo, CO on Halloween of 2016. I've been very fortunate with opportunities in Pueblo. I was promoted to General Meteorologist in 2018, Lead Meteorologist in 2021, and to Warning Coordination Meteorologist in 2023.



Klint Skelly

Warning Coordination Meteorologist,
NWSFO Pueblo, CO

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Tips

- 1) Learn how to write a government resume / CV, i.e. writing down everything that you've done, including non-meteorology related jobs.
- 2) Volunteering at a local WFO or getting a Pathways position.
- 3) Separate yourself from the rest and be indispensable as a potential employee. Learning specific skills like scripting in a computer language and learning GIS are always helpful, but I think the most important skill you can attain is being able to communicate weather effectively. There can be a 100% perfect forecast, but if it isn't communicated well, there may as well be no forecast at all.

I wish I had known...

Shiftwork is still a very real thing in the NWS. It is important to understand if your future plans in life line-up with the limitations of shiftwork. Once my wife and I decided we wanted to start a family, the limitation of shiftwork started becoming an issue - raising a child and working shifts is not easy. Shiftwork doesn't just impact the person working the shifts, it affects spouses / partners, friendships, and even pet's lives. There are advantages and disadvantages, but understanding the impacts is something I wish I would truly understood before starting my federal career.

Bio

Jordan Thies
Lead Meteorologist,
NWSFO Hastings, NE

My name is Jordan Thies, and I'm a Meteorologist at NWS Hastings, NE. I attended college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where I obtained a B.S. degree in Meteorology/Climatology and a minor in Mathematics. The teacher of one of my favorite classes (Severe Storms) was actually, at that time, the SOO at NWS Omaha. He emphasized how important it is to volunteer or some how become involved in an operational environment in college, in order to network

and truly understand how the operational environment works. That led me to pursue a volunteer internship with the WFO in Hastings as part of my last semester. I received invaluable experience, advice, and relationships during that time that would no doubt help me achieve my professional goals in the future.

Bio (continued)

Upon graduation, I was hired by a private meteorology consulting firm in Kansas City, where I would go on to work for the next five years. In that time, I became a Senior Consulting Meteorologist, providing DSS for a wide variety of customers ranging from utility companies, municipalities, snow removal operations (big and small), airports and professional baseball teams. Every day I was able to help the customers make routine (but sometimes difficult) decisions that impacted safety and their bottom line. It was very rewarding, and the experience allowed me to sharpen my meteorology skills, but also customer service skills. It had also been a goal to return to the NWS, and so when NWS Hastings had an opening, I applied and contacted the MIC to let him know. This pre-established relationship was crucial to me getting an interview and ultimately being hired because I didn't have research experience or an advanced degree. However, they knew who I was and what they would be getting if they hired me. They knew things about me that are difficult to express in a resume or cover letter, such as personality, work ethic, and customer service. The five years of experience providing DSS in private consulting meteorology space was also a huge plus.

I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for volunteering at an NWS office, establishing quality relationships, and venturing outside of the government space first, in order to gain experience.

I wish I had known...

The application process can be daunting. The first time I applied for an NWS position, I had no idea what I was doing and how to answer some of the questions. This likely hurt my application for that round. The second time I applied (in which I was hired), I sought out assistance from contacts within the NWS who provided guidance and suggestions on how to navigate the whole process.

Tips

The NWS Meteorologist position is not what it used to be—it's more than just atmospheric science. I wish I had taken more non-traditional studies, such as oral and visual communications classes, additional programming classes, and even management classes. These are all classes that would help you stand out among your peers and undoubtedly provide valuable knowledge that would serve you well throughout your entire NWS career.

Don't be afraid to venture out into the private enterprise to gain experience or the knowledge referenced in the previous point, which is what I did. Several private companies specialize in providing targeted IDSS, which is where the NWS has moved, and will continue to move, towards for core partners such as local, state, and federal agencies. I have definitely applied IDSS principles I learned in the private sector to my job within the NWS and have made my office and colleagues better for it.

Have a passion in something other than meteorology. I was actually told by the MIC that hired me that they liked that I had passions/hobbies outside of meteorology. He said it demonstrates good work/life balance which promotes high performing employees.

You will likely need more than one of the above because of the competitiveness of government meteorology jobs.

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AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists



AMS Board for Operational Government Meteorologists



Patricia Vollmer

Deputy Senior METOC Officer
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I received my B.S. in Meteorology from Penn State University in 1995, and a M.S. in Meteorology from the Air Force Institute of Technology in Ohio in 2002. I'm grateful for the military funding these degrees such that I could come into the workforce with less debt than many of my peers.

Bio

My name is Patricia Vollmer, and I currently work as a federal civilian with the Department of Defense as a Meteorology and Oceanography officer for NORAD and US Northern Command. When I am not tracking Santa, I provide weather and climate information for strategic planning of military operations in defense of our homelands, as well as in support of NORAD's charge to protect the airspace and waterways surrounding the United States and Canada.

I came into this position after serving 25 years in the Air Force, in both Active Duty and Reserve Component weather officer roles. I literally served around the world, forecasting not just for Air Force assets, but also for Army ground and aviation forces, in the United States, the western Pacific, the Middle East, and central Europe. I have had the unique opportunity to work in "command and control" advisory roles, serving in 24/7 command centers as the subject matter expert on weather, climate, and other geophysical topics. Not only do I provide standard atmospheric forecasting and climate services, but I also advise on space weather, hydrology, wildfire, and volcanic ash impacts to military operations.

Tips

Don't be afraid to try something that might be a little outside your comfort zone, whether it's a class at school, or a short course later in your career. It's okay to not do something perfectly on the first try, there is still a lot of value and it would still be a skill set that could be added to your resume later.

There's a saying, "Contractors [private sector] eat well, government employees sleep well. While the pay may not be glamorous, and the hours may be crazy, working for the government is a very noble endeavor that will bring you great pride when you realize what a great thing you're helping to protect from harm.

I wish I had known...

When I started college I was quick to eschew any other career paths besides operational forecasting. I figured the only thing that I would enjoy would be either the National Weather Service or the military. While I respected those who wanted to pursue broadcasting, continued research/academics, or the private sector, I didn't have the confidence to think I would do a good job in those roles. In hindsight, I wish I had been more open minded and looked into it a little more...I probably would have done just fine.

Bio

As the child of two US Air Force parents, the idea of a career in public service was instilled in me early, and the thought of working in weather excited me. I spent most of my grade school years growing up in the Desert Southwest. I saw summer monsoonal thunderstorms, record-breaking snow in the desert, and my first tornado, which all got me hooked young.

Meteorologist,
14th Weather Squadron
USAF Asheville, NC

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Jessica Voveris

Bio (continued)

I decided to pursue my meteorology degree at the University of Oklahoma in 2009 and graduated with my BS in 2013. My first job was with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a physical scientist. My job included reviewing weather and climate site characteristics for new nuclear power plants and reviewing natural hazards risks at current plants. In 2017, I joined the National Weather Service, accepting a general forecaster position at the Weather Forecast Office in Juneau, AK. In late 2018, I moved to the Center Weather Service Unit in Albuquerque, NM, doing more in decision support while embedded with FAA partners.

At this point in my career, I wanted to pursue my advanced degree and chose to attend the University of Colorado in 2020 for my master's degree in geography. During this time, I worked with the Arctic Rain-on-Snow Study at the National Snow and Ice Data Center as a graduate research assistant. After graduating in 2022, I accepted a position with the US Air Force as a meteorologist at the 14th Weather Squadron in Asheville, NC. Now, I am part of a data science team that handles Department of Defense information requests related to weather and climate data.

Tips

Find a mentor early, someone who is in your interested line of work. Don't be afraid to reach out; the worst thing they can say is "no". If you choose a career in the federal government, your built resume will be different; if you seek out assistance or a service to help you with resume writing, make sure you keep that in mind. Seek feedback from many individuals; your mentor is a good place to start, but folks from other disciplines may be able to point out things in your application package that you would not think about. There is not one perfect pathway to map out your career. Don't say no to or fear new opportunities; don't be afraid to move! It's ultimately up to you on how you want to shape your professional experience, and you never know when something may work to your advantage within the framework of your overall goals. In addition, be sure to read job announcements thoroughly and carefully! Sometimes they ask for information you would not think would be required. You must be your own advocate when navigating the government HR environment.

I wish I had known...

I would have appreciated more information on the federal government hiring system when I first started, whether that's knowledge of the GS pay scale or different service types between agencies (e.g., competitive vs. excepted service) or knowing about the diverse series occupations. Anything physical science related falls in the 1300s, but other data, computer science, or math-based jobs fall in the 1500s. As an undergraduate, I also wish I had known the breadth of meteorology or meteorology-related jobs that exist in the government. As you can see from my background, there are many agencies in need of meteorologists for operations ranging from energy regulation and emergency management and forecasting to data science, research, and policy.

Job Resources and Lists



Feel free to reach out to any of the professionals profiled in this document if you have questions!