



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

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BEAR MOUNTAIN STEWARDS

The Bear Mountain Steward program is a collaboration between the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (Trail Conference), REI, and New York State Parks.

In this seasonal position on weekends from August through October 2016, Bear Mountain Stewards will be stationed at the Appalachian Trail at the foot of Bear Mountain to provide the public with educational information that will ensure the safe and responsible use of hiking trails in the area.

Stewards work to encourage the best behavior on the part of hikers, to facilitate a positive trail experience (particularly for those who are poorly prepared). They discourage and mitigate misuse of the trails and the surrounding lands by performing educational and public-relations functions and educate the public on alternate recreational sites and pursuits to disperse visitor density from over-used sites.

Stewards must be able to work both independently with minimal supervision and cooperatively as a member of a team. Applicants should demonstrate the interest and ability to contribute to the public-service effort of working to promote the responsible use of hiking trails and promote volunteer opportunities within Bear Mountain State Park.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Meet and greet and educate the public on the proper use of public lands and provide information on trail conditions and park rules and regulations
- Introduce trail users to the Trail Conference and Leave No Trace hiking methods.
- Assist visitors and hikers whenever possible; assist emergency-response agencies when requested.
- Report unsafe conditions, misuse, and abuse of the trails (including vandalism, vagrancy, forest fires, beer and liquor parties, suspicious persons, vehicles, etc.)
- Assist visitors with information about other recreational options in the vicinity and region, including and especially less-used trails with more capacity (Anthony Wayne, Silvermine). Region includes a map and dining/visitor options in surrounding towns
- Monitor and record human visitation patterns and ecosystem condition.

Required Skills

- Commitment to Trail-protection and resource-protection efforts
- Proven ability to work alone with minimal supervision
- Excellent communication, diplomacy and education skills
- Ability to interact with the public under stressful conditions
- Extensive hiking experience and the ability to hike steep terrain and during inclement weather for several hours

Desired Skills

- Bilingual or multilingual
- Current certification in both Red Cross or equivalent First Aid and CPR (or willing to obtain certifications)

Application

To apply, please submit the following items via email attachments to jobs@nynjtc.org. Start all attachment filenames with your last name. Your email subject line should be: "Bear Mountain Steward Position."

- Cover letter addressing your interest in this position and what skills and attributes you bring
- Resume

All application materials will be kept confidential. The position is available until filled. Candidate interviews will begin immediately. No calls please.