

MAHWAH ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATION



MEVO

Creating environmentally
sustainable communities
one volunteer at a time.

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2016 MEVO and NYNJTC Summer Trail Crew Job Description

MEVO ([Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization](#)) in partnership with the [NYNJTC \(New York-New Jersey Trail Conference\)](#) is recruiting super awesome people for the 2016 Ramapo Earth Crew. This internship is designed for someone who wants to be a leader in environmental conservation, an advocate for the proper management of park systems, and make a difference this summer. We are looking for people who are passionate, friendly, and independent thinkers who want to gain skills in hiking trail building and design, soil erosion prevention, invasive species removal, and learn the principles of conservation minded hiking trail building. We offer an experience that shows you how to design, build, and maintain hiking trails and park infrastructure, how to manage, grow, and lead a not-for-profit organization, and how to work in partnership with policy makers, local citizens, parks departments, organizations, to be stewards of thousands of acres of park land.

Work

This summer you and your fellow crew members will work throughout the Northern New Jersey area to accomplish several environmental conservation projects:

1. Work throughout North New Jersey park system to design, build, and maintain low-impact hiking trails.
2. Plan and execute trail building projects which minimize erosion, neglect, and illegal trail use in order to improve the regions hiking experience.
3. Lead volunteers and community organizations in carrying out much needed trail building projects throughout the region ranging from building bridges, installing water bars, to putting in stone staircases.
4. Provide consultation and advice to municipalities and organizations that are interested in building hiking trails and opening up their properties to passive recreation and public use.
5. Work in partnership with our other crews to provide support to the MEVO Fresh Roots Farm, Beekeeping Program, and Trash Clean-Up initiatives.

Training

(May 22 – May 26 and May 31 – June 3) At the beginning of the MEVO summer there are two weeks of environmental training. This training covers topics such as: leadership, public speaking, networking, environmental pollutants, environmental history, environmental ethics, job opportunities in the environmental field, event planning, volunteer management, organic gardening, not-for-profit management, and much more. The training is carried out by MEVO Staff and outside speakers from partner not-for-profit organizations.

Group Trips

You will also take several group overnight trips with your fellow crew members:

1. (June 15 – June 16) Two day camping trip to the Delaware Water Gap in New Jersey you will be doing trail work and trail building with your fellow crew members. Building hiking trails, rock climbing, hiking, and exploring beautiful forests in this area.
2. (July 8 – July 11) Four days of camping at Merck Forest and Farmland Center in Rupert, Vermont. Swimming in rock quarries, staying in cabins, making s'mores, volunteering in a maple syrup forest and organic farm, herding sheep, harvesting vegetables, and spending time with the MEVO crew.
3. (August 1 – August 4) Four days at the Ananda Ashram in Monroe, New York learning about sustainable farming, eastern philosophy, alternative food systems and lifestyles, spirituality, meditation, yoga and personal health

Ramapo Earth Crew Details

Title: Crew Member

Start Date: May 22nd 2016

End Date: August 15th 2016

Pay: Unpaid

Days for the Internship: Monday, Thursday, and Saturday

Responsibilities

1. **Physical volunteering and getting dirty:** MEVO's volunteer work is tiring and you need to be in good physical shape and willing to work hard. You will spend A LOT of your summer outdoors on the farm in the heat and mud!
2. **Emailing, phone calling, and meeting:** Making a difference today requires you to use technology! You will get experience e-mailing, phone calling, and meeting with public officials from many communities. Be ready for indoor office work!
3. **Public speaking and making decisions:** We want you to end your internship with the ability to be a leader and get people involved. This means that you will speak in front of groups of people of all ages and be asked to make difficult decisions, at times with little guidance.

Requirements

1. **Mode of transportation:** We operate throughout North New Jersey, which means during the internship we will travel throughout this greater area. You need a way to get to our meet up location in Mahwah, NJ. We carpool most days so you will likely either be driving the carpool or carpooling in someone else's ride.

2. **Attendance:** You are required to be at every day of our internship. We allow for one work week of vacation (including sick days).
3. **Working Laptop:** Our office work requires that you have a working laptop that you can bring to do office work. We have electricity and internet access.
4. **The Three Trips:** There will be three trips over the summer and it is mandatory that you attend them. They are some of the most-awesome experiences of the summer.
5. **Training:** You must be able to attend all days of training.

A little bit about MEVO

MEVO is an environmental not-for-profit organization based in Northern New Jersey. We are lead entirely by youth: college and graduate students as well as young spirited adults. MEVO works throughout the region on a variety of volunteer-led projects ranging from trash clean-ups and tree plantings to building organic farms and teaching people about local beekeeping. Since MEVO's founding in June 2008 the organization has mobilized and engaged over 5,000 volunteers contributing over 40,000 hours of volunteer work to Northern New Jersey and lower New York state communities. MEVO is well known for its work in partnership with the Ramapough Lunaape Nation with whom they have collectively lead clean-up efforts for the removal of massive amounts of pollution and trash. This trash has been and continues to be illegally dumped in the forests surrounding the homes of the residents living in the Stag Hill community in Mahwah, New Jersey. In addition, MEVO builds and manages sustainable farms which provide educational programs on the importance of clean, healthy, and sustainably grown food. For all of this work MEVO were declared a 2014 New Jersey Hero and received the 2014 National Jefferson Award for Public Service as well as many other honors.

How to apply

To apply, fill out the online application process on this website, or contact Eric J. Fuchs-Stengel by e-mail at ericjfs@mevoearth.org or cell phone 201-316-4888. You should send your resume and cover letter. Phone calls are totally fine if you want to introduce yourself before submitting your information or if you want to ask questions!