



## 2020 MEVO and NYNJTC Summer Trail Crew Job Description

**MEVO** (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc.) in partnership with the **Trail Conference** (New York-New Jersey Trail Conference) is recruiting hard working college students with the desire to make a groundbreaking impact on our ecological future for our 2020 Trail Crew. This internship is designed for passionate and positive individuals who want to make a difference as leaders in environmental conservation, advocate for ecologically sensitive management of park systems, and work physically hard building low-impact hiking trails. We offer an experience that shows you how to design, build and maintain hiking trails and park infrastructure, what it takes to manage, grow, and lead a not-for-profit organization, and how to work in partnership with policy makers, citizens, parks departments, and community organizations to be stewards of thousands of acres of parkland.

### Work

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

1. Design, build, and maintain low-impact hiking trails with the Trail Conference and their AmeriCorps Conservation Corps Crew throughout North New Jersey park system.
2. Plan and execute trail building projects which minimize erosion and repair neglected trails in order to improve the regions hiking experience.
3. Lead community volunteers and organizations in carrying out much-needed trail building projects throughout the region including cutting fresh trail, installing water bars, and building stone steps and staircases.
4. Work in partnership with our other crews to provide support to the MEVO Fresh Roots and Lovewell Farms, and occasionally our Beekeeping Program, and Trash Clean-Up initiatives.

### Training & Education

- **Week 1:** May 17<sup>th</sup> - May 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - **General Training:** This training week is run by our staff and meant to introduce our interns to MEVO and what we do. Throughout the week, we instruct on topics such as leadership, public speaking, environmental careers, environmental pollutants, environmental history, environmental ethics, volunteer event planning, volunteer management, organic farming and much more. In addition, this is a time for interns and MEVO staff to get to know each other so we will do plenty of team building, a group hike, and more. Each day runs approximately from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Hours may vary as the dates approach.

- **Week 2: May 27<sup>th</sup> - May 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Crew Specific Training:** This training week is run by each crew's specific leader in order to prepare crews to the area of work they will be participating in throughout the summer. The trail crew will spend their week learning from both their crew leader and the Trail Conference staff on the history and work of the Trail Conference, trail building skills and best practices, with some site visits to future work sites. Each day runs approximately from 9am-5pm. Hours may vary as the dates approach.

### **Group Trips**

1. **Vermont, June 15 – 18:** On this trip, we'll spend four days camping in a rustic cabin and working at [Merck Forest and Farmland Center](#) in Rupert, Vermont. During our time at Merck we will be working in their forest maintaining trails and sugar bush, on the farm working with animals and crops, and in the sap house splitting and stacking wood. We will also have a ton of fun hiking, swimming, and exploring the town of Manchester, VT including time spent at Earth Sky Time Farm, a local community farm, bakery, and event space.
2. **Maine, July 12- 19:** On this week-long trip, we will be splitting our time between a 40-acre homestead deep within the forests of Ellsworth, Maine and Acadia National Park. On the homestead, we will be cutting trails, clearing land, and building infrastructure while exploring the woods, swimming, having bonfires, and learning about what it takes to envision and develop a wilderness home. We will also be exploring the beautiful Cape Rosier, working for a day at the Good Life Center and visiting Eliot Coleman's Four Season Farm. In Acadia National Park we will be tent camping for three days while working for the National Parks Service through the Acadia Stewardship Program. During our stay, we will maintain and build hiking trails in the park. To end our trip, everyone will have a free day to explore Acadia and Bar Harbor.

### **Trail Crew Details**

**Title:** Trail Crew Member

**Start Date:** May 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

**End Date:** August 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Days for the Internship:** Monday (Trail Day with AmeriCorp Crew), Thursday (Farm and Trail Crew Combined Work Day at Farms), and Sunday (Trail Day with Volunteers invited)

**Work Hours:** Monday, 8:30am – 5pm. Thursday, 9:00am – 5pm. Sunday, 8:30am – 5pm.

**Training:** May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and May 27<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Pay:** Unpaid

### **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, rain or shine!

2. **Public speaking and leadership:** 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.
3. **Teaching and Volunteer Management:** Every Farm Crew member will work with school groups, corporate groups and more to teach about sustainability and growing food. You have to be willing to teach, improvise, and have patience with your students. You also need to be energized to excite both students and volunteers about what you have to teach, through more structured education as well as physical work.
4. **Willingness to get the job done:** Some days we work late to finish the task at hand or have to get to the farm early in order to get our projects accomplished. Your crew leader will be there and we need you there, fully present. Please make sure your days and sometimes early evenings are completely free Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays. We suggest that you refrain from scheduling evening summer classes and work shifts during these days in order to accommodate longer work days when required. Plus, you'll be beat!

## Requirements

1. **Mode of transportation:** We operate throughout northern New Jersey which means we will be traveling to different locations for work and training. You need a way to get to our meet up location in Mahwah, NJ. We carpool most days so you will either be driving in the carpool or carpooling in someone else's ride.
2. **Attendance:** Every intern must attend every day of the internship, including training:
  - **You must complete 190 in-the-field hours** (this only includes workday hours not training or trip hours). Failure to achieve the 190 hours will result in our inability to provide you with a certificate of completion for the internship as well as class credit at your university.
  - If you have a vacation planned during the internship, you are allowed to take three consecutive work days off, but must be responsible for making up the twenty four work hours missed. Interns must report their vacation dates to the crew leaders before or during General Training Week (5/17-22).
  - Every intern who is not taking a vacation, may have one one day off which they must tell their crew leader about at a minimum one week before the date to be taken off, if you take your one day off, you will be responsible for making up eight hours of work.
  - Set days and events will be offered for you to work and make up your hours. These days will be any Saturday Stag Hill Trash Cleanup during the internship season, help with large volunteer events, or help with our CSA harvest and pickup on Tuesdays.
  - *We will ensure opportunities for interns to make up their hours up to a twenty four hour deficit. Beyond twenty four hours, we cannot ensure make up work days, but will provide what we can.*
3. **Working Laptop:** Occasionally, we ask our interns to participate in administrative work with us or bring a computer to training, which requires that you have a working laptop.

4. **Trips:** There will be two trips over the summer, and it is mandatory that you attend them. Please make sure you are physically and mentally able to participate in these trips. They provide some of the most rewarding experiences of the summer and are meant to push your limits. The successful completion of your summer internship is not possible without attendance on our trips.
5. **Training:** You must be able to attend all days of training so plan accordingly.

### **A Glimpse of MEVO**

*MEVO is an environmental not-for-profit organization based in Northern New Jersey. We are led entirely by young people: college and graduate students as well as young spirited adults. MEVO works throughout the region on a variety of volunteer environmental projects ranging from trash clean-ups to organic farming, building low-impact hiking trails, and teaching people about local beekeeping. Since MEVO was founded in June 2008, the organization has mobilized and engaged over 7,000 volunteers contributing over 60,000 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 led clean-up efforts for the removal of over 520,000lbs 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 and gardens which provide educational programs about the importance of clean, healthy, and sustainably grown food. For all of this work, MEVO was 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**

Send your resume and cover letter to Violet Reed at [violet@mevo.org](mailto:violet@mevo.org) and CC [billy@mevoearth.org](mailto:billy@mevoearth.org). If you would like to introduce yourself before submitting your information or if you want to ask any questions, you may also contact Violet by cell phone at (973) 670 7804 or *after January* (201) 316 4888.