



Trail Conference Conservation Corps

Position Opening: Trail Outreach and Education Steward



Overview

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a non-profit organization focused on the stewardship of more than 2,150 miles of trails throughout southern New York and northern New Jersey. The Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC) AmeriCorps Program fields seasonal crews that improve the trail experience for all users through education and outreach, trail construction, and invasive species control.

Since 1920, the Trail Conference has been committed to educating and assisting the public in the safe, enjoyable, and responsible use of trails. To advance these efforts, in 2013 we began deploying Trail Stewards at popular hiking destinations including Breakneck Ridge, the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain, and in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Job Description

We are seeking 6 individuals who share our passion for conservation and the outdoors to join us in educating trail users on proper etiquette and safety, performing outreach to schools and at community events, and leading stewardship hikes.

Trail Outreach and Education Stewards provide helpful information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, and other best practices, including Leave No Trace principles. In addition to readying hikers for their journeys, Stewards help discourage and mitigate misuse of the trails and the surrounding lands through their education and public relations and outreach work. They aim to plant the seed of responsibility—everyone who enjoys these trails has a role to play in caring for them—and work to cultivate volunteers who are motivated to give back.

Stewards will visit schools and youth camps to help educate the next generation of environmental stewards through workshops on Leave No Trace and other best practices. They may also assist with training workshops for Trail Conference staff and volunteers.

This is a service position through the Trail Conference Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Program. Work week is Thursday through Monday with Tuesdays and Wednesdays off.

Service Location

Lower Hudson Valley of New York and Northern New Jersey

Term of Service

900-hour term of service, May 2 through October 28; weekend work required

Duties and Responsibilities

- Meet and greet the public and educate them about hiking best practices and preparedness.
- Introduce trail users to the Trail Conference and Leave No Trace principles.
- Advise visitors and hikers of applicable state, local, and park regulations.
- Assist visitors and hikers whenever possible; assist lost and injured hikers and emergency-response agencies when requested.
- Report unsafe conditions, misuse, and abuse of the trails (including vandalism, fires, suspicious persons, vehicles, etc.)

- Promote Trail Conference volunteer opportunities and the public's participation in land stewardship events.
- Lead stewardship activities such as workshops and educational hikes.

Skills and Attributes Required

- Must be a clear communicator, use positive language to educate trail users.
- Candidates should be comfortable politely engaging trail users
- Must be able to hike up to 4 miles carrying up to 15 lbs. of equipment over uneven and/or steep terrain
- Must have demonstrated teamwork skills and/or experience leading volunteers
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must hold and maintain a valid driver's license
- Must have access to a reliable vehicle for transportation to field sites

Preferred Skills and Attributes

- Knowledge of the Trail Conference and hiking in the New York metropolitan region.
- Knowledge of Leave No Trace principles.
- Previous trail volunteer experience.
- Familiarity with using social media to promote the responsible use of trails.
- Preference will be given to bilingual applicants
- Demonstrated outreach skills and teaching experience
- Backpacking experience, camping experience and/or outdoor field work experience

Benefits for Members

- Free rustic, lakeside housing at a local park
- Bi-weekly pre-tax living allowance; \$7,000 total
- Education award of \$3,047.50 upon successful completion of the program
- Opportunity for qualified student loan deferment
- Training in Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED and Leave No Trace Principles
- Opportunity to work in a variety of different parks and preserves throughout the region and network with many local park managers and environmental professionals.
- Opportunity to serve local communities and the public by making a difference in the environment and improving habitats in a tangible way
- Recognition as a member of an accomplished AmeriCorps Program

Enrollment Requirements

An individual must be at least 18 years of age; have a high school diploma or GED; be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien; pass a three-part national service criminal history check of the national sex-offender registry, state repository check, and FBI fingerprint check; and complete all pre-service orientation and training requirements. Documentation of age, education and citizenship are due by the first day of orientation. Criminal history checks will be initiated before the start of service; an individual will be ineligible if s/he is required to register on the National Sex Offender Registry, has been convicted of murder, or fails to disclose any previous conviction. Other convictions or pending charges will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with program policy.

To Apply:

Go to www.nynjtc.org/corpsapplication2016

Applications accepted until the positions are filled, with preference given to those received before February 20.