



Trail Conference Conservation Corps *1200 Hour Aquatic ISF Crew Leader: Position Description*

**Do you love the outdoors and want to protect it?
Thinking about a career in the environment? Come join the movement!**

Spend this field season protecting New York's waters from aquatic invasive species (AIS) as on the Aquatic Invasives Strike Force Crew! As part of the AISF Crew, members will conduct aquatic vegetation and invertebrate surveys on various lakes and rivers throughout the Lower Hudson Valley. These surveys are critical in early detection and rapid response efforts of invasive species in the region. The crew will assist in invasive plant management in several lakes and make a tangible difference in controlling the spread of invasives. The AISF Crew will also participate in the Lower Hudson PRISM Watercraft Inspection Steward Program, providing critical education and outreach to boaters on AIS identification and spread prevention methods while performing voluntary boat inspections and collecting data on boater habits.

We are seeking a crew leader who shares our passion for conservation of freshwater ecosystems and the Lower Hudson Valley. The crew leader is responsible for working with the AISF program coordinator and park partners while leading the crew to successful completion of projects. Aquatic plant identification and survey training will be provided; however, it is expected that the crew leader will have some experience.

Program Overview:

Our AmeriCorps crews are trained by industry experts in sustainable trail building, invasive species management, public outreach, volunteer engagement, and outdoor leadership. You will receive a living stipend for your service and are eligible for education awards through our partnership with AmeriCorps.

Members learn and serve in the greater New York metropolitan region, which features the nation's finest system of trails outside of a major urban area. From trail construction to habitat restoration to visitor education, you can provide vital resources to the public parks you enjoy. For more information about our Corps, check out www.nynjtc.org/corps

Service Location: The Lower Hudson Valley of New York

Term of Service: A **minimum** of 1200-hour term of service April 11th through November 18th, Thursday-Monday (hours may vary from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM), including weekends and some holidays. Pre-season work (April 11th -May 12th) will operate on a Monday-Friday schedule. While on duty, successful candidates will wear a provided uniform.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist Teatown's AIS Program Manager with season planning, including scouting locations, preparing training materials, and additional pre-season projects as needed
- Supervise, motivate, direct, and coordinate crew members and volunteers as a team including project management, delegation of tasks, quality control in field and office, maintaining a high level of positive morale
- Lead the day-to-day activities of crew members under the direction and with the support of the program manager
- Provide guidance and support to members, conflict resolution, and build crew cohesion
- Communicate with program staff, crew members, and community volunteers to ensure the execution of a quality program that is consistent with the AmeriCorps provisions
- Conduct detailed field surveys of aquatic plants and invertebrates (native and invasive), as well as water quality, following specific procedures
- Perform manual aquatic invasive plant removals

- Educate boaters about aquatic invasive species and teach clean boating practices, i.e. by distributing outreach and educational material to watercraft users while performing voluntary boat inspections
- Weekly data entry, analysis, and preparation of detailed reports on work completed
- Participation in multimedia projects (educational/promotional videos, photography, social media, etc.)
- Ensure that tools and equipment are properly used and cared for and all safety precautions are followed
- Assist with training volunteers on invasive plant identification and removal techniques

Skills and Attributes Required:

- Interest in aquatic invasive species education and management
- Ability to remain calm and be comfortable with stinging/biting insect and animal encounters, including snakes (rare), spiders, and other aquatic insects and invertebrates
- Team leadership experience, preferably in an outdoor setting
- Strong organizational, interpersonal and written communication skills
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude in adverse conditions
- Must be able to conduct moderate physical field work in rugged terrain and aquatic environments
- Must hold and maintain a valid driver's license with access to a reliable vehicle for transportation of self, tools, and supplies to field sites (including kayaks/canoes with racks provided)
- Must have reliable cell phone
- Must be willing to travel throughout the Lower Hudson Valley to assigned launches and survey locations (total season mileage per member will vary depending on carpooling, individual workdays; total crew mileage may range from 3,000-6,000 miles)

Desired Qualifications:

- College education in ecology, biology, natural resources management or related field
- Basic knowledge and ability to identify native and invasive aquatic vegetation of New York
- Familiarity with video production and editing, photography, and social media
- Experience with Microsoft and Google editing suites (Word, Excel, Docs, Sheets)
- Experience with ArcGIS software and with using a hand-held GPS to perform vegetation surveys
- Demonstrated outreach skills and/or experience with environmental education

Member Benefits:

- Free rustic, lakeside housing at a local park may be provided from May 12th-October 24th; Work will be done remotely outside of the above timeframe.
- Bi-weekly pre-tax living allowance of \$708.33; not to exceed \$14,000 total
- Upon successful completion of the program, an education award of \$4,546.50
- Training in Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Leave No Trace Principles, and ACA Canoe Skills, Safety and Rescue
- Extensive opportunity for professional development and networking with other field professionals
- Opportunity to serve local communities and the public by making a difference in the environment and improving habitats in a tangible way
- Opportunity for qualified student loan deferment

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 <https://www.nynjtc.org/corpsapplication>