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Trail Construction & Maintenance Internship

Love working outside? Want to gain real hands-on experience in the trail conservation and outdoor recreation fields? Join our Summer Trail Crew as a CFPA intern and help improve Connecticut's 825-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System!

Description of Duties

CFPA trail interns work to maintain, build and restore CFPA's hiking trails across Connecticut. Interns will conduct needed trail restoration and improvements in a variety of environments. Duties include:

- Assist staff and volunteer trail managers with the construction of hiking trails and trail structures.
- Perform routine maintenance duties such as brushing trails, blazing, tread repair and clearing drainage structures.
- Work in the field, sometimes very remotely, as part of a tight-knit team.
- Camp in remote regions to undertake larger, multi-day trail improvement projects in state forests, parks, and private conservation lands.
- Work with existing trail volunteer trail teams such as chainsaw or rock crews to tackle larger trail improvement projects.
- Layout and design new trails or major relocations and flag sustainable trail routes.
- Perform tool and equipment maintenance as needed.

Benefits

The internship will give interns vital skills and experience for a career in outdoor recreation, conservation, or land management, as well as a greater appreciation for the importance of CT's natural areas. Those selected will learn from and work closely with professional trail staff and land management professionals in the field. Educational opportunities beyond the daily work experiences will be provided, including participation in land conservation and environmental education workshops, which will expose interns to local conservationists and organizations. Tool use and safety, best practices, sustainable trail design, bridge building, chainsaw use and leadership training will be provided. Additionally, work safety equipment, uniforms and camping equipment will be provided.

Desired Skills/ Qualifications

The most important qualifications for interns is a positive attitude, an eagerness to learn and a willingness to work hard. Additional preferred skills include:

- Ability to work in a small, cohesive team.
- Appreciation for the natural world, conservation & outdoor recreation.
- Familiarity and/or desire to learn how to operate hand and power tools to perform trail work.
- Desire to learn natural and cultural history of Connecticut and the role of trails in protecting these resources.
- Overnight camping experience preferred but not necessary.
- Desire and ability to work outdoors and willingness to perform strenuous physical activity such as frequent bending, lifting, and carrying of heavy objects.

- Willingness to work in outdoor settings in inclement or high temperature weather conditions, such as rain, heat, or humidity.
- Ability to hike up to five miles daily and perform work in sometimes steep and uneven terrain.
- Ability to lift and/or carry tools and construction materials weighing up to 40 pounds.

Internship Term

The Trail Internship is full-time from early June to mid- August. Interns will work 35-40 hours/week. Depending on the project location, the work week may include weekends. Interns will work, travel, and camp together. Scheduling is flexible to accommodate college start/end dates.

Transportation and Housing

Interns will work out of our Middlefield office and travel to project sites each day. Interns will be required to also spend a week at a time camping in the field at State campgrounds or remote campsites with limited modern conveniences.

All interns are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the Middlefield office. Transportation from the office to project sites will be provided.

Reimbursement

Trail interns will be paid \$10.10/hr. Personal vehicle mileage to project sites will be provided if necessary. During overnight trips, group food will be provided. Possibility for temporary housing support during the Summer.

Eligibility/ Application Requirements

This internship is open to 18-24 year olds. Application deadline is March 15. An in-person or Skype interview will be required. Please provide a resume with three references and a brief letter of interest to Clare Cain, Trails Stewardship Director at ccain@ctwoodlands.org. No phone calls please.

CFPA is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. CFPA does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.