



VetsWork AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title: Volunteer Coordinator

Project Sponsor: Sumter National Forest
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs>

Project Location: 112 Andrew Pickens Circle, Mountain Rest, SC 29664

Project Sponsor Mission: The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Mt. Adams Institute Mission: VetsWork is a program of the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI). MAI's mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research. Learn more at: www.mtadamsinstitute.org

Position Summary: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute, the Sumter National Forest-Andrew Pickens Ranger District will offer training and real-world work experience for an intern interested in natural resource management with a focus on outdoor recreation. The 85,000 acre district is located in the western, mountainous tip of South Carolina. It's a wild and remote section of the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains adjacent and encompassing the Georgia and North Carolina mountains.

The intern will serve as a critical component of a team designed to increase Forest Service field level capacity to enhance volunteer and partnership projects as well as engage youth and young adults in volunteer and service programs in the district's backcountry and wilderness areas, as well as in the nationally recognized Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River corridor. This position will primarily support the recreation staff, but will also contribute time to all resource areas on the district. The intern will serve as the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) leader for high school students during the summer. Opportunities will be available to attend the Wilderness Skills Institute to learn about wilderness ethics and skills and apply these skills on the district through trail work and public education. This opportunity will involve extensive hiking through the wild and remote areas of the district carrying all the necessary tools and equipment. The

intern will make visitor contacts for the purpose of providing wilderness philosophy, explaining rules and regulations, and educating user groups on Leave No Trace principles

General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

1. Recruit Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) students from local high schools.
2. Crew Leader for summer YCC students. Prepare and implement work projects.
3. Recruit volunteers and organize work days. Volunteer activities may include trail maintenance, trainings, and education.
4. Work with short-term trail crews.
5. Collect and report all volunteer activities and data.
6. Support recreation staff with daily district maintenance of developed and dispersed recreation sites.
7. Provide support to other resource areas including timber, fire, and administration.
8. Travel into wilderness and backcountry areas.
9. Increase public and forest visitor knowledge about the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River and Ellicott Rock Wilderness.
10. Complete a Community Action Project that is identified by the Intern, researched, and implemented during the term of service.
11. Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings and national service days.
12. Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
13. Wear an MAI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Position Requirements:

1. Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation. Must comply with Driver Certification and Safety Agreement (see VetsWork Application Documents on website).
2. Attend a mandatory orientation in Dover, TN from 3/2 to 3/6 (food and lodging provided), intern trainings, and intern meetings.
3. Ability to independently lead a work crew on a daily basis.
4. Strong oral and written communication skills.
5. Physical capability to perform moderately strenuous trail and recreation work.
6. Ability to acquire suitable outdoor clothes, rain jackets, pants, work boots, etc.
7. Intern will work 40 hours per week with some flexibility in work schedule including some weekend work.
8. Meet other requirements of federal employee (eg. background check, defensive driving, etc...)
9. Must have served in US Armed Forces and have a DD214 with an honorable discharge.
10. 21 years of age at beginning of service term.
11. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
12. Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
13. Ability to commit to the full 45-week term of service.

14. Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Register and a national FBI fingerprint check. Position does have recurring access to vulnerable populations.
15. Members are eligible to serve up to four terms of service and receive AmeriCorps Education awards for each term of service up to the value of two full time education awards only. It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform MAI of any previous service in an AmeriCorps program, regardless of whether or not they completed the previous term(s) of service. MAI is not liable for providing an Education Award to a member if they are not eligible under the Corporation for National and Community Service AmeriCorps guidelines.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Strong communication skills, oral and writing.
2. Experience leading crews.
3. Orienteering (use of maps and compass) skills.
4. Experience with hand-held GPS units for navigation and data collection.
5. Basic computer skills for data management (Word, Excel, GIS).
6. Background in outdoor education, natural resources, or related field.

Member Benefits Include:

1. A total taxable living allowance (before taxes) of \$15,750, paid over term of service.
2. Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members receive an education award of \$6,195. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
3. Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
4. Basic medical insurance (covers members only, not dependents; vision and dental not included).
5. Child care allowance for those who qualify.
6. VetsWork is an apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor. Members with G.I. Bill benefits may be able to dual enroll as an apprentice and access their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of up to approximately \$2,400 per month. Actual benefits vary by individuals' qualified benefits.
7. Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
8. A \$500/month housing stipend is provided by service site.

Transportation Information:

1. Project site is not accessible by public transportation.
2. Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.
3. Intern is responsible for travel to and from orientation and to and from duty station.

Equal Opportunity:

People of color, people with disabilities, veterans and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our staff with

ongoing career development opportunities. MAI is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment decisions.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees as required by law. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.

Application Instructions Below

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

Interviews: Will occur as qualified applications are received.

Type of position: Individual Placement

Service Dates March 2, 2020 to January 15, 2021

Length of Term: 1700 hours

How to apply:

Submit the following materials by email to katie@mtadamsinstitute.org. If you are selected for a position additional documents will be required.

1. A resume including three professional references (These could be military, civilian, or academic.)
2. A separate cover letter for each position in which you are interested in applying.
3. A copy of your DD 214 with an honorable discharge (general under honorable conditions discharge considered on a case-by-case basis). This needs to be the long form Member 4 copy which has 30 total boxes of information.
4. Read "VetsWork Frequently Asked Questions" and "Is VetsWork Right for Me?" found at <https://mtadamsinstitute.org/internships/#vetswork> under the VetsWork Application Documents heading.

Questions? Contact Katie Schmidt at katie@mtadamsinstitute.org or 509-395-3465
Mt. Adams Institute
2453 HWY 141, Trout Lake, WA 98650

Checklist for initial INTERN APPLICATION

Forms can be mailed or scanned and emailed to Katie Schmidt.

- Resume**
- DD214**
- Separate cover letter** for each position for which you are applying.
- In the submission email list positions in order of preference if applying for more than one**

