



## **VetsWork AmeriCorps Position Description**

**Position Title:** Forestry Technician (Interdisciplinary)

**Project Sponsor:** Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest  
Blue Ridge Ranger District  
[www.fs.usda.gov/conf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conf)

**Project Location:** 2042 Highway 515 West, Blairsville, GA 30512

**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](http://www.mtadamsinstitute.org)

**Position Summary:** In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute, this position will fill an interdisciplinary forestry technician position on the Blue ridge Ranger District. This is a primarily field-going (80%) with a focus on wilderness and trails management, with participation in recreation, timber, fire, archeology and wildlife projects as needed. About 125 miles from Atlanta the District is accessible to thousands of visitors annually. The recreation program includes ten developed campgrounds, all or portions of seven wilderness areas, a shooting range, dispersed camping and over 48 miles of multi-use trails. This position will interact with forest visitors for educational purposes while performing a range of public lands improvement projects such as invasive species removal, trail and campsite maintenance. The incumbent will also organize and facilitate volunteer projects and community outreach and education events.

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

1. Promote responsible public land stewardship through information visitor contacts and by being a positive role model.
2. Maintain trails throughout district.
3. Coordinate monthly volunteer work projects.
4. Make visitor contacts to convey critical wilderness information.
5. Identify, survey and treat nonnative invasive species (NNIS).
6. Maintain developed and dispersed recreation sites for visitor access.
7. Assist with Wilderness stewardship performance planning and field work.
8. Develop and present education activities to a wide variety of audiences (school groups, special interest groups, information about a festivals, etc.).

9. Complete a Community Action Project that is identified by the intern, researched, and implemented during the term of service.
10. Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings and national service days.
11. Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
12. 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, OR from 3/02 to 3/06 and a mid-term training (food and lodging provided for orientation and trainings).
3. Knowledge of basic computer programs (Microsoft Office, internet searches).
4. Ability to work in all types of weather and rugged terrain.
5. Ability to become First Aid/CPR certified.
6. Good communication skills, comfort relaying information to the public in informal and formal settings.
7. A cooperative manner and the ability to serve as part of a diverse team.
8. Meet other requirements of federal employee (eg. background check)
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. Basic knowledge of public lands management practices.
2. Motivated and able to work independently or with a team.
3. Experience with hand tools/equipment.
4. Minor construction or masonry experience.

**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. Rural location makes a personal vehicle preferred.
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**

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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**