



PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Position Description



Position Title: Wilderness-Backcountry Ranger (2 Positions)

Project Sponsor: US Forest Service, Okanogan – Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District

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.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/R6/wenatchee>

MAI Mission: Public Lands Stewards 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. <http://www.mtadamsinstitute.org>

Project Location: Methow Valley Ranger District, 24 West Chewuch, Winthrop, WA 98862

Duty station would be in Winthrop and primary work sites in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth wildernesses

Position Summary: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute, spend the summer and fall in the rugged North Cascades backcountry. The Wilderness-Backcountry Rangers will perform public education and trail maintenance duties on non-motorized and motorized trails. They will also perform monitoring hikes of trails in the wilderness areas that keep them out for up to 8 days/nights. Engagement with backcountry visitors is expected and Wilderness Rangers will educate them on Leave No Trace principles if necessary.

Rangers will serve on multiple use trail systems, non-motorized trail systems and areas of designated Wilderness. Rangers will ideally have a background which includes experience with the area's various types of trail uses, including knowledge of the effects of recreation on high elevation environments, and be able to clearly communicate a tread lightly message while educating users on proper travel and leave-no-trace techniques. In addition to public contact and education, Wilderness Rangers will serve as a trail maintenance team focused on logging out wilderness trails. Duties will rotate between traditional Wilderness Ranger (public outreach) with light trail maintenance and focused trail maintenance work including; drainage, brushing and bucking out logs on the trail.

This position is perfect for a person who has a passion for being in the mountains and has demonstrated experience living and working safely in a backcountry setting.

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

1. Be educated on tread lightly, leave-no-trace, and proper backcountry use ethics, and practices and be able to share these principles with visitors. Promote cooperation and understanding of public lands.
2. Ability to clearly communicate with members of the public in a friendly and non-confrontational manner.
3. Document trail user contacts; maintain daily log of trail users contacted, including: date, area contacted, type of trail use, trail users' origin, and any violations.

4. Report and document trail conditions. Providing trail reports on access due to snow depths, maintenance condition (trees down, washouts, needed drainage, etc.).
5. Wilderness trail maintenance with a cross-cut saw and some hand tools.
6. Participate in special projects such as bridge building, campground maintenance, hunter education or others to achieve district recreation program goals.
7. Lead by example. Live in the backcountry and set the example for others by observing and adhering to all Wilderness regulations, guidelines, and ethics, regarding leave-no-trace use practices.
8. Become educated on current issues, and controversial use practices, (national and regional), effecting recreation on public land.
9. Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings and national service days.
10. Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
11. Wear an MAI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.
12. Member will not engage in prohibited AmeriCorps activities as outlined in the member handbook and agreement.

Position Requirements:

1. Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
2. Attend a mandatory orientation from May 4 – May 8 and Intern trainings in Trout Lake, WA (food and lodging provided for orientation and trainings).
3. Demonstrated ability to spend extended periods alone in the backcountry, and be self-sufficient for up to 4-8 days. This includes camping in the backcountry when on a tour.
4. Be physically fit, able to walk long distances (5-20 miles/day) over extended periods of time, in a steep mountain environment.
5. Be able to carry heavy loads (backpack) for long distances and requiring steep elevation gains (as much as 2000-5000 vertical feet a day).
6. Be able to proficiently use hand tools, such as a crosscut saw, for long periods of time.
7. Be able to tolerate extreme heat and cold, season will start with snow on the ground and end with snow on the ground, in between it will be hot and dusty.
8. Comfortable contacting and communicating with members of the public in a remote setting.
9. Enthusiastic about all types of trail recreation.
10. Regular and reliable attendance.
11. 21-30 years of age, at beginning of service term.
12. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
13. Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
14. Ability to commit to the full term of service for which they are applying.
15. Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Register and a national FBI fingerprint check. Position does not have recurring access to vulnerable populations.
16. AmeriCorps 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. Experienced and knowledgeable about treading lightly and leave-no-trace and wilderness ethics.
2. Experienced in spending extended periods backpacking in the backcountry.
3. Experience in communicating with the public.
4. Knowledgeable/educated about high elevation, and fragile ecosystems.
5. Educated on current issues, and controversial use practices, (local, national and regional), effecting recreation on public land.
6. Diverse recreational background: we are looking for someone with a passion for all types of trail recreation, i.e.; mountain biking, hiking, motorcycles, and horseback riding.

Member Benefits Include:

1. A total taxable living allowance (before taxes) of \$8,750, paid over term of service.
2. Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members/leaders receive an education award of \$3,097. 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. Free housing for intern 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

Application Instructions Below

Application Deadline: Open until Filled

Interviews: Will occur as qualified applications are received.

Type of position: Individual Placement

Service Dates: May 4 – October 23, 2020

Length of Term: 25-week position /960 hours

If you are interested in this position AND you meet the requirements for the position, please complete the following steps to apply for the position. To be considered for an interview all of the following information must be submitted via email to our Program Coordinator.

Application Instructions:

Email the following 4 documents to our Program Coordinator Mike@mtadamsinstitute.org. Each of these documents must be submitted as a separate email attachment as either a word or pdf document.

- Resume (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email)
- Professional references. Please provide email AND phone contact information for three professional references (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email)
- Cover letter(s). Please submit a separate cover letter for EACH position you are interested in (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email)

Answers to the following questions (attach a separate word doc or pdf to email):

- What is your motivation for applying to this position?
- What are you hoping to get out of this experience?

Additional information:

- More information can be found at <https://mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards>
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macsl.org/articles/cover-letters>

QUESTIONS? Contact: Mike Gundlach
Public Lands Stewards Program Coordinator
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Mt. Adams Institute
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