

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



for the greatest good



POSITION TITLE: Forestry Technician (Interdisciplinary)

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Talladega National Forest

WEBSITE: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/alabama/about-forest/districts/?cid=fsbdev3_002556

PROJECT LOCATION: 9901 Highway 5, Brent, AL 35034

SERVICE DATES: March 8, 2021 to January 14, 2022

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the Talladega National Forest is hosting one internship position to support operations on the Oakmulgee Ranger District. Primary duties will take place within the Recreation, Special Uses, and Engineering departments. The Intern will assist with campground and road maintenance using equipment and herbicides. The Intern will inspect recreation areas, areas of concentrated public use, and Special Use Permits for compliance. There will also be opportunities to work with other departments such as Fire, Timber, Silviculture, and Wildlife to accomplish district project goals.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- Assures recreation sites and areas with one or two major uses are operated and maintained in accordance with Recreation Operation and Maintenance Plans. Schedules daily activities, establishes maintenance schedules, and inspects cleanup operations based on Recreation Operation and Maintenance plans. Reports on conditions and use of sites and areas.
- Serves as inspector for recreation area cleanup and/or maintenance contracts. Maintains contact with and provides support to campground host(s). Serves as a Unit Fee Collection Officer.
- Inspects recreation areas, areas of concentrated public use, and special use permits for compliance with the permit and the management plans, public health, and safety.
- Performs safety hazard analyses of public recreation use areas and takes or recommends corrective action.
- Cleans both roadside and/or backcountry dispersed sites. Naturalizes sites where necessary in order to control use and prevent resource damage. Installs and maintains information boards, travel signs, regulatory signs and other signs associated with recreation sites, travel management and safety.
- Provides detailed information about recreation opportunities to Forest visitors and explains the Forest Service rules and regulations. Provides information on resource management practices, regulations and current conditions.
- Operation and maintenance of equipment to maintain recreation areas and road right of ways.
- Provide support to other departments such as Fire, Silviculture, Timber, and Wildlife on an as needed basis.
- Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps trainings and service requirements including orientation, trainings and team meetings.
- Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Wear MAI identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- Attend mandatory virtual MAI Orientation (March 8-12) and Intern trainings (mid-term).
- Demonstrates independence, motivation and resourcefulness.

Mt. Adams Institute strengthens the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research.

- Able to endure strenuous and repetitive physical activity involving lifting up to 50 lbs.
- Ability and willingness to serve outdoors, in inclement weather.
- Willingness to apply herbicide, operate small engine tools (chainsaw, brush cutter, etc.).
- Knows how or is able and willing to learn how to operate equipment (ex. Tractors, skid-steers, and mowers).
- Able to drive four-wheel drive vehicles.
- Serve occasional evenings and weekends.
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- Meet other requirements of a federal employee (eg. background check).
- Must have served in US Armed Forces and have a DD214 with an honorable discharge.
- At least 21 years of age at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving education award.
- Ability to commit to the full 45-week term of service.
- Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Registry, state of service and state of residence criminal history check and a national FBI check.
- 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.
- **Must be willing to respond to COVID-19 restrictions by altering duties, working remotely from home, wearing designated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, ensure social distancing and follow all agency requirements while working and living in agency housing.**

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Familiarity with GIS.
- Interest or experience in natural resources.
- Knowledge of operating a UTV.
- Proficient in operation of skid steer or tractor.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 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.
- \$15,750 living allowance paid over the 10 ½ -month term of service (\$350 weekly, before taxes).
- \$6,345 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Health Care Insurance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
- Firefighter Type 2, Utility Task Vehicle (UTV), trailering, chainsaw, tree climbing, tractor, skid-steer, special-uses, and security awareness trainings may be available.

HOUSING:

- \$500 monthly housing stipend.
- Places to consider looking are www.zillow.com and local reality companies in the following areas: Brent, AL, Centreville, AL, Tuscaloosa, AL, and Moundville, AL.
- Limited housing is available for rent in the closest towns (Brent, AL and Centreville, AL). For greater availability of housing, Tuscaloosa, AL is 30 miles to the northwest. Tuscaloosa is a typical college town with multiple colleges and home of the University of Alabama - Crimson Tide.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Agency vehicle is available for service activities only.
- Personal transportation is required for off-duty activities due to no public transportation available and rural nature of the service location.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Oakmulgee Ranger District is one of six Districts in the National Forests in Alabama and encompasses approximately 157,000 acres in six west-central Alabama counties. District staff includes 18-20 employees working as an integrated mission-driven team with strong traditions of innovation, partnerships, and accomplishment.
- Brent, AL is a combined community with Centreville, AL. Both areas are considered small communities with a population of approximately 7,500 total. These areas will generally consist of small town living with a hospitable environment.
- Alabama summers have average high temperatures above 90°F (32.2°C) and are among the hottest in the United States. Day highs often average 92°F (33.3°C) in many southern regions. Winters are mild to cold, with the central and southern parts have relatively mild temperatures but experience freezing nights occasionally. Autumn is mild and dry compared to the spring season. Spring is wet and prone to tornadoes and thunderstorms.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

MAI celebrates equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and does not discriminate against any person or group based on race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, expression, gender identity, ability, national origin or ancestry, veteran status, social economic class, religion, professional status, pregnancy, or parents/guardians with children. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our Interns and staff with trainings and career development opportunities.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Email the following documents to Katie Schmidt at katie@mtadamsinstitute.org:

- Resume
- Cover Letter (One for each position applying to).
- Three Professional References (military, civilian, or academic) – Information to include: Name, Title, Relation to you, email & phone number.
- Supplemental Questions:
 - What is your motivation for applying to VetsWork?
 - What are you hoping to get out of this experience?
- DD 214 – (with Honorable Discharge):
 - “General under honorable conditions” discharge are considered on a case-by-case basis
 - Must be long form “Member 4 copy” (has 30 total boxes of information).

PROCESS:

1. MAI screens application materials, conduct pre-interviews, and recommends qualified applicants for Service Site interviews.
2. Service Sites interview candidates, conduct reference checks and recommend placement.

3. If position is offered, additional paperwork will be required.

Due to Covid-19 parts of our programming may change

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- More information at “[VetsWork Frequently Asked Questions](#)” and “[Is VetsWork Right for Me?](#)”
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslis.org/articles/cover-letters>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Katie Schmidt

Recruitment Coordinator | 509-395-3465

katie@mtadamsinstitute.org | mtadamsinstitute.org

