

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Recreation Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: National Forests of Mississippi

WEBSITE: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mississippi>

PROJECT LOCATION: Tombigbee Ranger District, 6052 MS Hwy 15, Ackerman, MS 39735

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



for the greatest good



POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the National Forests of Mississippi will host an Intern to support recreation operations and maintenance of developed recreation sites. This will include inventory and survey of trails across the district and developing an electronic (spatial) version of recreation assets including, signs, and infrastructure. The Tombigbee Ranger District has two popular developed recreation areas, which include campgrounds and extensive trail systems that are regularly used by the public. Recreation areas require regular maintenance tasks to be performed through the spring, summer and fall, including management of facilities and grounds upkeep. Additionally, there are periodic construction projects within the recreation areas. More than 70 miles of hiking, mountain bike, ATV, and horse trails exist on the district, which all require routine annual maintenance tasks. The Intern will assist with inventory and collection of condition surveys on these trails and some minor trail bridges. The Intern will work alongside a professional Recreation Technician with more than 30 years' of experience. Specific skillsets and training will provide an opportunity to build a resume related to similar jobs in the field.

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

- Recreation area and campground maintenance – mowing, cleaning restrooms, litter pick-up, etc...
- Clear trails of brush, debris, and downed trees using saws.
- Assist in inventory and survey of district trails and trail bridges.
- Assist in small construction projects within recreation areas and on trails.
- Inventory and assess condition of forest service signs within recreation areas, entrances, and along roads and trails.
- Assist in acquisition and receipt of supplies for recreation program needs.
- Collaborate with staff to identify trail maintenance needs and improvement plans.
- 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).
- Desire to promote environmental stewardship.
- Willingness to apply herbicide, operate small engine tools (chainsaw, brush cutter, etc.) and mowers/tractors.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with co-workers, volunteers, and the public.
- Occasional work on the weekends.
- Ability to drive large vehicles such as a four-wheel drive truck.

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

- Ability and willingness to serve outdoors, with possible strenuous and repetitive physical activity in inclement weather and lift up to 40+ lbs.
- Demonstrates independence, motivation and resourcefulness.
- 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:

- Basic computer skills (word processing, email, data entry).
- Familiarity with GPS, GIS and/or orienteering.
- Strong connection to the natural world.
- Interest or experience in natural resources.

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.
- Forest Service specialized training and certifications (eg. saw certification, fire certification).

HOUSING:

- \$500 monthly housing stipend is provided by service site.
- Places to consider looking include the towns of Ackerman, Sturgis, Louisville and Starkville (see Other Considerations, below).

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Agency vehicle is available for service activities.
- Project site is not accessible by public transportation. Transportation to the Ranger District is the responsibility of the intern. Personal vehicle is recommended.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

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

- Mississippi summers are hot and humid with an average high temperature of 89 degrees. Winters are mild with an average low temperature of 32 degrees and an occasional freeze or snowfall. The yearly average rainfall is 54 inches.
- There is an abundance of outdoor recreational activities to be enjoyed in the area. Mississippi weather allows outside activities throughout the year. There are many hunting and fishing opportunities. There is a variety of public lands in the area including the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and Mississippi State University's John W. Starr Memorial Forest.
- The Tombigbee Ranger District is located in Ackerman, MS, a small town located in north-central Mississippi. The town of Ackerman, MS is the county seat of Choctaw County with a population of approximately 1500. Housing and services are limited but are available with public schools, churches, and shops. The town holds the charm and warmth of a small community. Ackerman is easily accessed on good roads that provide easy travel to larger cities in the area. Louisville, MS is close by, only 15 miles down the road, and has a population of 6300 with more housing and services available. Starkville, MS (26 miles away) is home to Mississippi State University. With approximately 21,000 students attending Mississippi State University, the surrounding communities can offer a great range of housing, shopping, and restaurant opportunities.

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:

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

- 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

