

CREW VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Wilderness Trails Recreation Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Tongass National Forest

WEBSITE: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tongass/home>

PROJECT LOCATION: 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK, 99801

SERVICE DATES: February 8, 2021 to December 17, 2021



for the greatest good

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the Tongass National Forest is recruiting one Intern to support wilderness and trails recreation operations for Admiralty Island National Monument Kootznoowoo Wilderness, Tracy Arm/Fords Terror and Chuck River Wilderness. In particular, the Intern will assist in priority wilderness management projects, support Forest Service Recreation Technicians with remote cabins and trails maintenance, and inform wilderness visitors about rules and regulations with an emphasis on wilderness education and Leave No Trace ethics. This is a field going position, with most of the work occurring outside in all weather conditions. The position involves strenuous physical activities in rugged mountainous environments. The position is based in Juneau, Alaska; however, the Intern will spend the majority of their work time on Admiralty Island in a backcountry setting. Admiralty Island is located 15 miles southwest of Juneau. Accessible only by boat or floatplane, it is characterized by rugged mountains rising 4,650 feet above sea level, numerous lakes and rivers, and some of the highest concentrations of iconic wildlife species found anywhere in the world. The selected candidate must be highly dedicated, adaptable, committed to the success and promotion of their projects, and able to thrive working in areas that are both beautiful and very remote. Crew members work either ten days on 4 days off or 9 days on 5 days off schedule, with one day of planning and prep in Juneau and the remaining days in the field. Transportation to and from the field will be by small boat or float plane.

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

- Assist Wilderness Techs in daily duties such as informing the public on rules and regulations, and answering visitor questions.
- General trail maintenance, such as brushing and removal of downed trees and drainage maintenance.
- Working with cabins and trails crew at remote locations on annual maintenance, repainting, and basic carpentry repairs.
- Cutting logs with crosscut saws to provide firewood for remote cabin sites.
- Maintaining tools and equipment.
- Assignments to different program areas to gain experience in diverse working environments and disciplines.
- 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:

- Complete introductory safety training in watercraft, aviation, bear and firearms.
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Ability to hike up to 5 miles with up to a 50 lb pack.
- Work and camp in remote settings for up to 9 days at a time.

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

- Ability to fly on small float planes and travel in boats operated on salt and fresh water.
- Be a team player.
- Ability to work safely in brown bear country.
- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- Attend mandatory virtual MAI Orientation (February 8-12) and Intern trainings (mid-term).
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- 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:

- Ability to use basic power tools such as drills, jig and circular saws, and table saws.
- Experience with hand digging and brushing tools.
- Some canoe or kayak experience.
- Experience with hand carpentry tools.
- Leave No Trace training.
- Ability to work outside in wet and cold environments in isolated locations.
- Good customer and communication skills.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Experience towards a Forest Service temporary or permanent position.
- Ability to obtain wildland fire red card.
- Government driver's license.
- First Aid/CPR certification.
- 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.

HOUSING:

- Free bunkhouse housing MAY be available in Juneau depending on Covid restrictions.
- If no housing is available, a \$1,100 monthly housing stipend will be provided to the Intern.
- Please contact Mt. Adams Institute recruitment staff to discuss further.

- When working remotely on Admiralty Island, crew members will be camping or staying in three sided shelters and occasionally in cabins.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Personal vehicle not needed, city bus system is pretty comprehensive. A bike would be a good thing for a candidate to have.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Although Juneau is a capital city it has a small town atmosphere with friendly people.
- Great recreational opportunities in Juneau (lots of trails, access to glaciers and ice fields and marine environment).
- Juneau is in a lush temperate rain forest and summer temperatures range from 45 to 80 degrees.
- Admiralty Island is a largely undeveloped intact temperate rainforest known for its high density of brown bears. Due to it's close proximity to Juneau it is a popular destination for recreationists and brown bear enthusiasts.
- Applicants should be prepared to work in cold and rainy conditions.
- Bear safety training will be provided.

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

