

# **VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT**

## **AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**POSITION TITLE:** Recreation and Trails Technician

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:** National Forests of North Carolina –  
Uwharrie National Forest

**WEBSITE:** [fs.usda.gov/nfsnc](https://fs.usda.gov/nfsnc)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Uwharrie National Forest, 789 Biscoe Road, Troy, NC 27371

**SERVICE DATES:** March 7, 2022 to January 14, 2023 (1700-hour position)



**for the greatest good**



**POSITION SUMMARY:** In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the National Forests of North Carolina will sponsor a VetsWork AmeriCorps Intern to serve as a Recreation and Trails Technician. The intern will perform a variety of outdoor assignments, which allow the public to safely access and enjoy special places, such as trails, campgrounds, rivers and lakes. Common duties include clearing downed trees from hiking trails, cleaning and maintaining campground and day use facilities, plumbing and electrical repairs at recreation and administrative facilities, collections of recreation fees, coordinating volunteer projects and providing information about recreational opportunities. The Forest draws visitors in for hiking, overnight camping, rafting/kayaking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. When a recreation technician helps maintain and operate campground facilities and trails it prevents degradation to natural resources and enhances a visitor's experience, enjoyment, and satisfaction of the outdoors, which not only provides a wide range of positive health benefits but also gives visitors a reason to travel and spend money in the local area. This is a primarily field based position with work on holidays and weekends.

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

- Plumbing, electrical, carpentry, sign installation and other maintenance across the forest at recreation facilities.
- Mowing, weed eating and trash pick-up off ground prior to mowing at some recreation facilities and at administrative sites.
- Campground and day use area maintenance (i.e. fixing health and safety issues and general maintenance and repairs).
- Work with Off Highway Vehicle Volunteers, Backcountry Horsemen Volunteers and Uwharrie Trailblazers on Volunteer Work Days (Saturdays) throughout the year for trail maintenance and trash clean up. Work on the Annual Big Sweep with Boy Scouts and other volunteers for shoreline trash clean up.
- Campground collections and putting up reservation signs when hosts unavailable.
- Roadside mowing and trash clean up and clean-up of abandoned campsites and dumpsites on the forest.
- Upon training support work on prescribed burns and fire suppression efforts locally and possibly be available for national incident assignments.
- Trail layout and trail maintenance (i.e. brushing back trails, clearing trees, installing trail signs and markers, maintaining or installing water bars and other drainage structures).
- Help with developed recreation facility inventories and trail condition inventories.
- Maintain Information Kiosk Displays at administrative and recreation facility sites and trailheads.
- 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:**

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## Service Site

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- Ability to drive trucks on paved and gravel roads safely.
- Weekend work required to maintain a Forest Service presence and engage with the public the regarding rules, regulations, and answer questions.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations, such as project partners/volunteers, general public, forest service staff, cooperating agency staff, and people of differing ages, cultural backgrounds, etc.
- Able to endure strenuous and repetitive physical activity in hot and humid weather and other weather conditions. Be able to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Must be able to work well in a team/crew environment and independently for different types of projects.
- Commitment to promote natural resource conservation and stewardship for the National Forest
- Flexibility with changing project lists as new things may come up that are higher priority than what was planned.
- Ability to learn plumbing, electrical, and carpentry skills to maintain recreation facilities and learn trails maintenance skills.

## AmeriCorps

- 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.
- Attend virtual MAI Orientation (March 7-11) and Intern trainings.
- 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.
- **COVID-19 Policy - Selected applicants will be required to follow the policies at their service site including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the program. These policies may include vaccination or regular testing mandates (federal sites), masking/social distancing mandates, remote/virtual work, altered field duties and other restrictions determined necessary to keep site staff, partners and the public safe. Accepting a position means accepting the current requirements and any updates to those requirements while you are enrolled in the program.**

## PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Power tool experience and skill (i.e. chainsaw, mowing, weed eating and other lawn care equipment, welding, etc.)
- Carpentry, electrical or plumbing skills or experience.
- Experience with hiking, backpacking, orienteering through the woods and any experience with hand tools and trail maintenance.
- Familiarity with GIS and GPS.
- Experience with camping, outdoor recreation and natural resource management.
- Desire and passion for public service through natural resource management and stewardship.

## 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

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their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of up to approximately \$2,400 per month. Actual benefits vary by individuals' qualified benefits.

- \$16,875 living allowance paid over the 10 ½ -month term of service (\$375 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:**

- A \$500/month housing stipend provided by service site.
- Low cost housing for intern is available through service site.
  - a. Daily rate is \$16
  - b. Ranger house is a 3-bedroom house between the District Office and the Work Center and can sleep up to 6 people.

#### **TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:**

- Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.
- Intern is responsible for travel to and from duty station.
- Project site is not accessible by public transportation.

#### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Field work done throughout all seasons and should have proper gear for the changing seasonal weather and proper footwear for working in the field on trails and in the forest in general. Steel-toed boots not required. Good hiking or work boots required.
- Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided; such as; a hard hat, work gloves, hearing protection, eye protection and other PPE depending on the job / task and the Job Hazard Analysis done for that task that outlines the proper PPE required.
- Troy, NC is a small town but amenities are close by if not found in the town. There are 2 grocery stores, 2 to 3 pharmacies, several restaurants, 2 car dealerships, several gas stations, and storefronts. Biscoe, NC is about 15 minutes away and has amenities that include larger stores like Walmart.
- To learn more and get a better idea of what is happening in Troy please visit the Discover Uwharrie Welcome Center Website [discoveruwharrie.com/](http://discoveruwharrie.com/).
- Montgomery County has several lumber mills and private timberlands along with the National Forest System lands. Land management is very visible in the Piedmont Region of North Carolina.
- Uwharrie National Forest is 1 of 4 National Forests in North Carolina and it is the smallest forest at approximately 52,000 acres, but it is the closest to the majority of the population in NC. About 6 million people are within a 2 hour drive.
- The local economy is based heavily on outdoor recreation/tourism, natural resource management and agricultural products.

#### **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.

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### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

Email the following documents to Katie Schmidt at [katie@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto: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](#)”
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslis.org/articles/cover-letters>

### **QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

**Katie Schmidt**

Recruitment Coordinator | 503-504-5994

[katie@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto:katie@mtadamsinstitute.org) | [mtadamsinstitute.org](http://mtadamsinstitute.org)

