

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Timber Stand Improvement Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: George Washington & Jefferson National Forests

WEBSITE: fs.usda.gov/gwj

PROJECT LOCATION: Lee Ranger District, 95 Railroad Ave., Edinburg, VA

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 George Washington & Jefferson National Forests will sponsor a VetsWork AmeriCorps Intern to serve as a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) Technician. TSI is done to improve the health and vigor of forest stands and is important in conservation of important species such as oaks and yellow pine species. TSI allows the agency to improve wildlife habitat and promote the production of quality forest products. The primary duties of this position will include protecting planted seedlings by applying big game repellent, releasing trees from vegetative competition by manual or chemical methods, monitoring stands to determine present tree stocking and survival, species and conditions, competing vegetation and density and evidence of insect or disease damage. May also perform other resource work in other areas, such as wildlife, recreation and fire suppression. The position will be primarily field based in all types of weather and terrain.

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

- Use tools such as brush cutters and chain saws to cut unwanted vegetation.
- Use backpack sprayers to apply products to deter deer and other animals from damaging tree seedlings.
- Plant trees or observe others planting trees to assure quality.
- Collect and analyze forest data, including mapping old growth communities.
- Support prescribed burning activities such as road guard or smoke watch.
- Assist in administering contracts awarded in Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) or tree planting/care on the North Zone.
- 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:

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.
- Using common forestry tools to collect data on forest stands and old growth.
- Ability to learn GPS and Avenza to map and collect data and create maps using this information.
- Proper use and knowledge of the application of common herbicides used in a forest setting.
- The duties require working in all types of weather, and the employee must be capable of hiking long distances in remote areas or operate power equipment for extended periods of time, and perform physical labor, including bending, lifting, and carrying up to 40 pounds or more.

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

- Good communication skills and able to interact in a positive, professional manner with USFS employees, various groups, the public and other stakeholders.

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.
- **Must be fully vaccinated** against Covid-19 with the ability to provide documentation or have an approved medical or religious exemption prior to the start of the position. *Exemption forms can be found on our [website](#) and once submitted, they must go through a review and determination process before being approved.*
- **Must follow all Covid-19 policies** at the service site including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the program. Policies may include masking/social distancing, 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 enrolled in the program.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Training in forestry skills and able to identify trees.
- Chainsaw experience.
- Wildfire fighter qualified (Red Card).

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.
- \$16,875 living allowance paid over the 10 ½ -month term of service (\$375 weekly, before taxes).
- \$6,495 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Health Care Insurance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
- Training opportunities in wildfire fighting, herbicide application and operation of chainsaws/ brush cutters, and other opportunities.
- Certified Cruiser (marking and appraising timber for timber sales).

HOUSING:

- A \$500/month housing stipend provided by service site.
- Low cost housing for intern is available through service site.
- Housing is available at the government rate. (Approximately \$4.85 per night, rates are subject to change).

- It is a furnished, shared room / bunkhouse facility with privacy curtains (on the second floor/ no elevator). Laundry and kitchen are located on the first level.
- One or two other employees may share the facility.

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:

- The community of Woodstock, VA is just over 5 miles to the north and has several restaurants, shopping opportunities (Walmart, Lowe’s, Food Lion) and hotels. There is a hospital and other medical care facilities in Woodstock as well.
- The district office is located between Harrisonburg, VA and Winchester, VA. Harrisonburg is approximately 35 miles to the south and Winchester is approximately 35 miles to the north. Winchester is home to Shenandoah University while Harrisonburg is home to James Madison and Eastern Mennonite Universities.
- The district encompasses approximately 190,000 acres. Developed recreation facilities include seven campgrounds, one beach, and eight picnic areas. There are three stocked fishing ponds, numerous stocked and native brook trout streams and Trout Pond the only natural lake in West Virginia. Over 360 miles of trail are available for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

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 (someone who has supervised you; 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 | mtadamsinstitute.org

