

PUBLIC LANDS STEWARDS

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



POSITION TITLE: Wilderness Trails Ranger (2 positions)

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

WEBSITE: www.fs.fed.us/R6/wenatchee

PROJECT LOCATION: 428 West Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816

SERVICE DATES: May 2, 2022 to October 21, 2022 (940-hour position)

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), interns will spend the season maintaining trails and campsites, and educating hikers on Leave No Trace principles in the rugged North Cascades backcountry. This position assures wilderness areas are maintained to Forest Service standards, and are safe and enjoyable to visitors. This position is ideal for a person who has a passion for being in the mountains and “living” in the backcountry.

The service locations vary from established administrative buildings to mountainous wilderness areas. Interns will rotate between solo patrol hitches on the PCT and the higher-use trails around Holden Village and hitches with the Chelan Trail Crew. The locations will vary each trip. Ninety percent of the service, related travel, and living is performed outdoors. The position requires strenuous physical exertion, including walking in steep or uneven terrain, heavy lifting, and carrying backpacks up to 50 pounds or more. Exposure to extreme weather and temperature is expected. The position requires backcountry living and experienced camping skills. The schedule is nine days “on” (Tues-Wed) and five days “off” (every other Thurs-Mon). The first day of each hitch is spent at the Chelan Ranger District office complex, and the remaining eight days are spent in the Wilderness areas.

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

- Use tools safely to clear and maintain wilderness and non-wilderness trails. Tools include handsaws, axes, hoes, loppers, shovels, picks, and crosscut saws. Training is provided.
- Demonstrate and educate visitors on tread lightly, Leave-No-Trace ethics, and proper backcountry practices. Training will be provided.
- Clearly communicate with members of the public, volunteers, and Forest Service employees in a friendly and non-confrontational manner.
- Keep a daily log of service activities, daily visitor contact data, trail survey data, and trail conditions.
- Live safely in the backcountry and set the example for others by observing and adhering to Wilderness regulations, guidelines, and ethics.
- Become educated on current issues, and controversial use practices effecting wilderness recreation.
- Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps trainings and service requirements including orientation and trainings.
- 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.
- Be physically fit, able to walk long distances (5-20 miles/day) carrying heavy loads (50+ lbs) with steep elevation gains (2000-5000 vertical feet/day).
- Must be comfortable serving alone and being self-sufficient for extended periods (up to 9 days)

- Travel, serve and live safely in mountainous wilderness settings and/or remote community setting, including proper and safe use of backpacking/camping equipment during trips.
- Serve alone and/or with many diverse people (land and resource managers, other Forest Service trail crew employees, volunteers) in both an office and field setting.
- Serve cooperatively with fellow AmeriCorps partner and other co-workers on 9-day wilderness trips. Must also be able to communicate clearly with the different working groups.
- Able to proficiently and safely use hand tools for long periods.
- Able to tolerate and maintain a positive attitude in extreme heat and cold; season will start with snow on the ground and end with snow on the ground, in between it will be hot and dusty.
- Enthusiastic about wilderness recreation and being in wilderness in various settings.
- Comply with all Partner Organization safety policies and procedures.

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- 21-30 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 25-week term of service.
- Attend mandatory virtual MAI Orientation the first week in May 2 - 4, 2022 and an Intern Career training the week of August 29th (TBD if it will be virtual or in-person).
- 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. These are completed at no cost to the applicant.
- Participants 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. Applicant cannot be enrolled in two AmeriCorps terms at the same time.
- **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:

- Experience with safe use of hand tools (this could include experience in farming, gardening, orchard work, landscaping, carpentry, construction, etc).
- Experienced in safely spending extended periods backpacking in the backcountry.
- Experience communicating with the public.
- Knowledgeable about Leave-No-Trace and wilderness ethics.
- Knowledgeable/educated about high elevation, and fragile ecosystems.
- Educated on current issues, and controversies effecting wilderness use & stewardship.
- A passion for and being involved with wilderness & non-wilderness stewardship.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- \$9,375 living allowance (\$375 weekly) paid over term of service (Interns are paid once a month, on the 10th)
- \$3,247.50 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Live and work in a beautiful setting with many opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.

- Provide meaningful service to the local community and environment.
- The Forest Service will provide most backpacking, camping equipment, and rain gear, or you may use your own if you prefer. However, you must provide your own leather hiking boots (required safety equipment) and clothing appropriate for the extremes of mountain weather (ex. layers and no cotton).

HOUSING:

- For downlake (Chelan area) accommodations, free dispersed camping on Forest Service land is available within a 30-minute drive of the duty station and a limited number (30-40) of nights are provided at a local Bed and Breakfast. Interns must have a personal vehicle to access housing options. Note: The Bed & Breakfast requires guests to be COVID-19 vaccinated.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Forest Service provides all transportation between the Ranger Station and the trailheads (and Holden Village) in the form of ferryboat and bus tickets, or rides in Forest Service boats & vehicles.
- Intern must have their own vehicle to access “downlake” housing options/supplies/equipment and to travel on days off.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- The duty station is in Chelan, WA and- the primary service sites are backcountry settings located in the “uplake” part of Lake Chelan, in the Glacier Peak and Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness Areas. The “uplake” part of 55 mile long and 1 mile wide Lake Chelan (an inland fiord) is one of the deepest gorges in the United States with elevation gains of 7,000 ft (between the shores of Lake Chelan and the passes over the surrounding ridge tops). Some primary service locations include the Holden Village area, Lyman Lakes area, and the PCT in Agnes Creek. **Access to these sites and trailheads is only by boat on Lake Chelan; there are no roads (or cell phone service) to these villages, sites, or trailheads.**
- **Holden Village**, an old mining company town but now a retreat center affiliated with the Lutheran Church, is located 12 miles up Railroad Creek, an “uplake” side drainage to Lake Chelan, and is reached by boat then FS vehicles or Holden buses operating on the road between Lucerne Landing (on the shore of Lake Chelan) and Holden Village. During the busy summer months, Holden Village will house up to 400 visitors on a daily basis, many of whom utilize Forest Service hiking trails in the area. www.holdenvillage.org
- The **Lyman Lake** area is an 8-10 mile hike from Holden Village into the Glacier Peak Wilderness’ subalpine and alpine basins of upper and lower Lyman Lakes, and Cloudy and Suiattle Passes.
- Agnes Creek, also in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, has 18 miles of the **Pacific Crest Trail** from Suiattle Pass down to the North Cascades National Park at the High Bridge Trailhead along the Stehekin River.

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 Erica Bingham at erica@mtadamsinstitute.org:

- Resume
- Cover Letter (One for each position applying to).
- Three Professional References – Information to include: Name, Title, Relation to you, email & phone number.
- Supplemental Questions:
 - What is your motivation for applying to this position?
 - What are you hoping to get out of this experience?

PROCESS:

1. MAI screens application materials, conducts 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 can be found at [Public Lands Stewards Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards) or [mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards](https://www.mtadamsinstitute.org/public-lands-stewards)
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslist.org/articles/cover-letters>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Erica Bingham

Public Lands Stewards Program Coordinator

erica@mtadamsinstitute.org | [mtadamsinstitute.org](https://www.mtadamsinstitute.org)

