



Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

AmeriCorps Environmental Stewards Summer Program

AmeriCorps Environmental Stewards Summer Program Position Available

Deadline for Applications: Recruitment & Selection of Summer Program Members will occur in April and May, 2012 and will continue until all positions are filled.

Position description:

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is a landscape that tells the story of nearly 200 years of American history – from industry to agriculture to recreation. Hopewell Furnace showcases an early American industrial landscape from natural resource extraction to enlightened conservation. Operating from 1771-1883, Hopewell and other "iron plantations" laid the foundation for the transformation of the United States into an industrial giant. The park's 848 acres and historic structures illustrate the business, technology and lifestyle of our growing nation. The park's landscape includes historic structures, a historic apple orchard that is experiencing unprecedented mortality, agricultural fields, forests, wetlands, and riparian areas. French Creek, the main riparian area in the park, is a state designated Exceptional Value waterway, which affords it the highest level of protection by the state.

The park is at the center of the Hopewell Big Woods, which is the largest unbroken forest in southeastern Pennsylvania. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is an integral member of the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership. The Partnership is led by the non-profit Natural Lands Trust (NLT), and is comprised of over 30 government agencies, private non-profits, and municipalities. The partnership seeks to conserve 15,000 acres of unbroken forest. The Hopewell Big Woods is globally significant, is a designated as an Audubon Important Birding Area, and includes several rare and endangered species such as the bog turtle, an endangered mussel, and a rare aquatic lichen.

Invasive Plant Management. AmeriCorps member will: (1) Participate with park staff and the NPS-Exotic Plant Management Team to control invasive, non-native plant species within the park; (2) Map the distribution of high priority invasive plants within the park (3) Work with park partners to control invasive plants on lands outside the park boundary; (4) Lead volunteer groups in the control of invasive, non-native plants. AmeriCorps member will learn and apply the principles of integrated pest management. Non-native plant control activities will primarily involve manual controls methods (e.g. mowing, hand pulling, and cutting) requiring use of hand tools (mechanized and non-mechanized). Safe application of chemical herbicides may be required in specialized circumstances and will be conducted under the direct supervision of NPS staff with a Pesticide Applicators License after appropriate training and with required personal protective equipment.

Apple Orchard Maintenance and Monitoring. AmeriCorps member will: assist with the care, monitoring, and pest management of the historic apple orchard located in the park. Tasks will include pruning, mowing, soil and leaf testing sample collection, orchard condition monitoring, and integrated pest management. Safe application of chemical pesticides may be required in specialized circumstances and will be conducted under the direct supervision of NPS staff with a Pesticide Applicators License after appropriate training and with required personal protective equipment.

Natural Resource Interpretation. AmeriCorps member will: (1) Contribute to development of park informational brochures on natural resources; (2) Assist with development of the Nature and Science portion of the park web page; and (3) Assist with delivery of a variety of natural resource interpretive programs in the park and possibly with our partners.

Integrated Pest Management. AmeriCorps member will learn and apply the principals of integrated pest management (IPM). In addition to controlling for invasive plants and orchard pests as already described, AmeriCorps member may also assist with monitoring and control of invasive animals, building and museum pests, nuisance animals, etc.

Trails Management. AmeriCorps member: (1) Work with park staff and partners on maintenance of trails both in the park and nearby partner sites, including clearing, mowing, vine removal, and installation of water management structures such as water bars.

Park Planning. AmeriCorps member will be afforded the opportunity to attend and participate in a variety of planning efforts related to natural resources (e.g. staff meetings, Hopewell Big Woods partnership meetings), participate in meetings with resource professionals, and assist with filing, photocopying, and general office organization (limited).

Program Basics

The Environmental Steward Summer Program, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the Department of the Interior's Office of Youth, Partnerships & Service, are providing opportunities for **10 week summer service positions**. These positions are intended to create environmental stewardship opportunities and provide professional development and hands-on experience with environmental and conservation projects for the Summer Program Member. In 2011, a total of 58 Summer Program Members served across 19 states. The 2011 Summer Program Members logged a total of 21,294 service hours — more than 10 years of full time work. You can read more about that work here: <http://www.hardrockteam.org/docs/2011%20Summer%20Programs%20Report.pdf>

Benefits

- \$2,000 living stipend distributed evenly over 10 weeks on a biweekly basis
- \$1,132 AmeriCorps Segal Education Award to be used for qualified student loans or tuition *available upon successful completion of the program*
- Dorm-style housing provided if not local resident. Office is within walking distance of housing. A personal vehicle will be needed to access groceries, shopping, etc.
- Professional development and hands-on experience with environmental and conservation projects
- Access to innovative examples of partnerships and information for collaborative environmental restoration and community building
- College credit may be obtained, depending on Member's host school. This is arranged by the Summer Program member and their host school.

Expectations

- Complete midterm and final reporting of project accomplishments
- Timely completion and submission of all personnel paperwork, timesheets, and reports
- Adherence to SCC and agency/partner policies and procedures
- Reporting of any safety related incidents related to the summer position job duties
- Reporting to work for full-time service of 40 hours per week

Minimum Qualifications

- Must be a US Citizen, National, or Lawful Permanent Resident.
- Must be at least 17 years old at the time of enrollment and have completed at least 1 year of undergraduate education
- Must not have been convicted of murder or be a registered Sex Offender & submit to a background screening
- Must have a dedication and interest in environmental stewardship and community service

Diversity & Anti-Discrimination

In accordance with DOI's Equal Opportunity and AmeriCorps' Grant Program Civil Rights Policies, applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age or handicap. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

How to Apply

Please submit the Environmental Stewards Summer Program Member application form and your résumé. Only electronic submissions will be accepted and incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications can be found here: http://www.hardrockteam.org/docs/SP_2012_Member_Application.doc

For questions about the application process and the nationwide program, or to submit an application, please contact Cora McCold, Program Administrative Assistant cora@sccorps.org or 970.403.0137

For questions about this particular position at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, please contact Kate Jensen at kate_jensen@nps.gov or 215.692.3340.