



Sourland Conservancy Stewardship Intern

The Sourland Conservancy is seeking four part-time Stewardship Interns for spring and four part-time Stewardship Interns for fall 2024. Each intern will report to the Stewardship Director and be primarily responsible for planting native trees and shrubs and installing deer fencing in the Sourland Mountain Region of Central New Jersey.

Spring internship: 12 weeks (250 hours maximum), April-June (hours dependent)

Fall internship: 12 weeks (250 hours maximum), September-November (hours dependent)

Location: Hopewell, NJ 08525

Duties:

- Plant native trees and shrubs of various sizes. Some basic site prep and care for project areas may be required: weeding, watering, mulching, etc.
- Install and repair protective deer fencing or tree tubes to protect all plantings.
- Control target invasive species at some restoration sites (with pruners, loppers, or a hand saw and/or with herbicide treatment). Target invasive species include burning bush, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, Asiatic bittersweet vine, privet, autumn olive, stilt grass, garlic mustard, mugwort, and others.
- Lead volunteers, perform volunteer outreach, and educate others on forest restoration work.
- Work with partner organizations including County Park Commissions, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, D&R Greenway Land Trust, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, and Sourland region municipalities to assist in Sourland Region planting initiatives.
- Data collection using a GPS, and management of collected data
- Administrative support including folder organization and file management.
- Perform additional tasks as assigned by the Stewardship Director and Executive Director.

Terms:

- Duration: April - June or September - November (hours dependent -start & end dates can be flexible.
- Hours: Variable schedule, mostly Tuesday - Friday. An average of 24 hours/week for a maximum total of 250 hours.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule that considers weather events, agency needs, and includes some Saturdays.

Compensation:

- \$17/hour. Housing will not be provided.

Requirements:

- Desire to work outdoors in various weather conditions;
- Conduct physically strenuous field work in rugged terrain; dig holes in rocky terrain using a shovel, pickax, and/or shale bar; lift and carry 50 pounds to the field site;
- Careful and conscientious (we need these plants to grow big and strong);
- Work well independently or as a member of a team;
- Arrive on time, remain motivated, and maintain an attitude of curiosity;
- Provide own transportation and live within commuting distance of Hopewell.
- Possess a valid driver's license with a safe driving record, and safely operate a 4WD pick-up truck.
- Pesticide operator license (or willingness to obtain).

**Desired but not required:**

- Knowledge of local plant and animal species
- First aid certification

All Sourland Conservancy employees, volunteers and partners must follow CDC COVID-19 guidelines, wear a mask in enclosed spaces, and follow social distance protocol. Sourland Conservancy employees who will be working/traveling in enclosed spaces will be required to be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19.

Desirable Skills

This internship position is well-suited for individuals that have a strong interest in natural resource and land management, habitat restoration, conservation biology, environmental education/outreach, and for those eager to hone their plant identification skills. Experience in native and invasive plant identification, ecological field monitoring/surveying, gardening/landscaping, and GPS/GIS mapping are a plus, but not required. Interns will learn plant identification skills and receive valuable experience in a wide range of land management activities including ecological restoration in various habitat types as well as managing groups of volunteers during stewardship activities.

To Apply

Please send a resume, cover letter and contact information for two references in one document to Robert Aluck at stewards@sourland.org and indicate if you are applying for the spring or fall internships. Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis. Your cover letter should describe why you are interested in this internship, how your skillset suits the position, and why you feel it would advance your career objectives. Please include any scheduling considerations including classes, work, etc.

The Sourland Conservancy

Located in the heart of the most densely populated state in the nation, the 90-square-mile region sequesters carbon and provides fresh air and critical habitat for people and animals - including 57 state-listed, threatened and endangered species. Streams that begin their journey on the Mountain flow into rivers that provide clean drinking water for millions of people in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Migratory birds, fish and other animals rely on the Sourland forest to provide crucial food, shelter and breeding areas.

Over one million Sourland Mountain trees will die within the next few years due to an invasive insect, the emerald ash borer. The Sourland Conservancy is working with public and private landowners to mitigate the EAB's impact and restore the forest. This complex restoration effort began in 2020 and will continue for many years. The Conservancy and its partners will identify and prioritize sites and work with the landowners to develop the most effective plan for each site.

For more information about the Sourland Conservancy, please visit our website at www.Sourland.org

The Sourland Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, family status, or veteran status. The Sourland Conservancy values a diverse workplace and strongly encourages women, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities, foreign-born residents and veterans to apply.