Sourland Conservancy Stewardship Intern

The Sourland Conservancy is seeking a part-time Stewardship Intern for Fall 2023. The intern will report to the Stewardship Director and be primarily responsible for planting native trees and shrubs and installing deer fencing on preserved public properties in the Sourland Mountain Region of Central New Jersey.

Fall internship: (250 hours), August - November

Duties

● Planting of native trees and shrubs of various sizes. Some basic site prep and care for project areas may be required: weeding, watering, mulching, etc.
● Installation and repair of protective deer fencing or tree tubes to protect all plantings.
● Targeted invasive species control may be required for some 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, among others.
● Lead volunteers, perform volunteer outreach, and educate others on the work this candidate will be performing. Must be available to work some Saturdays.
● Work with partner organizations including Mercer County Park Commission, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, D&R Greenway Land Trust, Montgomery Township, and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space 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: August - November (for 250 total hours -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 for volunteer events.

Compensation: $17/hour; $4,496 for the internship’s duration. Housing will not be provided.

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.

Work will be scheduled during the cool, wet months to achieve the highest transplant success rate possible.

Location: Hopewell, NJ 08525
Requirements

● Ideal candidates will be actively pursuing a degree in ecology, natural resource management, or related fields; must possess a strong interest in conservation;
● Desire to work outdoors in various weather conditions;
● Conduct physically strenuous field work in rugged terrain; dig holes in rocky terrain using a shovel, pick ax, 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 a positive attitude;
● Provide own transportation and live within commuting distance of Hopewell.
● Possess a valid driver’s license with safe driving record, and safely operate a 4WD pick-up truck.

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

To Apply

Please send a resume, cover letter and contact information for three references in one document to Robert Aluck at stewards@sourland.org. 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 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.