



DNR- Gladstone

Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Private Forest Lands Outreach
PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION: Escanaba, Michigan
RESPONSIBLE TO: Ernest Houghton, Private Lands Service Forester

Michigan has nearly 400,000 family forest owners who own over 9 million acres of forest and woodland. Family forests contribute many ecosystem services including soil conservation, wildlife habitat, and water quality. Forest products that are harvested from family forests help sustain local economies. Educational outreach and technical advice is provided through a public-private partnership. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, local Conservation Districts, and private consulting foresters and wildlife biologist all work together to help landowners manage, protect and enjoy their land. Documenting the impletion of forest management plans that are a result of outreach efforts, and promoting forest and wildlife conservation practices will be a primary responsibility of this position.

In partnership with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, the DNR Forest Resource Division is offering the opportunity for a full time member to serve at the Escanaba Customer Service Center. The successful applicant should have a strong natural resources background, knowledge of wildlife and plant species, and be comfortable working collaboratively with people. The member should be able to prioritize and manage multiple projects simultaneously and have the ability to work independently. The member may be required to complete tasks alone in the field in a variety of adverse weather and terrain conditions. This position will include some travel across the Upper Peninsula. Experience with the operation of off road vehicles and snowmobiles and trailer is helpful. Preference will be given to candidates with excellent written and verbal communication skills. Some hands-on experience with on-the-ground conservation projects is preferred.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE: This position requires a 10-month commitment. The Huron Pines AmeriCorps Environmental Stewardship Technician will implement monitoring of Forest Stewardship plans and other management plans written for owners of non-industrial private forestland. The member will interview landowners on the telephone and with site visits across the Upper Peninsula. The member will assess the extent and success of conservation practices carried out by landowners. Barriers to completing conservation practices will also be identified and documented. The member will collaborate with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and the local conservation districts to develop public workshops about forest planning and cost-share opportunities to implement conservation activities. The member will promote American Tree Farm sustainable forestry certification and conduct landowner certification site visits. The member will travel across the Upper Peninsula to meet with landowners and promote programs. Traveling to other DNR offices to review landowner information is required.



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The program offers opportunities to develop creative approaches involving the public and to learn more about natural resource management. This position is physically demanding and will require a flexible schedule with some service on nights and weekends as well as extensive travel throughout the service area (shared company vehicle provided). Some overnight stays may be required including rustic camping when appropriate. Service locations include office space at Escanaba Customer Service Center, private properties, field sites and public buildings.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Forest Stewardship Program

- Coordinate with DNR staff to develop landowner questionnaire and plan monitoring protocol
- Conduct interviews with FSP landowners over the telephone and with site visits
- During site visits determine the location extent and success of conservation practices and how closely the written management plan was followed
- Identify any barriers landowners have encountered to implement conservation practices
- Compile and enter data accurately including landowner information, conservation practices completed and cost-share programs the landowner may have used
- Engage in the proper use and maintenance of vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, digital cameras, GPS units and other equipment normally used with forestry field activities
- Verify ownership of Commercial Forest (CF) program land using DNR records and county ownership records. Contact new landowners regarding program requirements including development of forest management plans

American Tree Farm System

- Become a certified Tree Farm Inspector
- Promote the Tree Farm certification program to landowners and the public
- Conduct 5 Tree Farm new certification and/or re-certification inspections

Community Outreach

- Promote the Forest Stewardship Program and Natural Resource and Conservation Service programs by conducting at least 2 public presentations in coordination with the local conservation district office
- Promote the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, Forest Stewardship, Tree Farm and the Natural Resources and Conservation Service by submitting articles for publication located throughout the Upper Peninsula.
- Work with school districts and the Wheels-to-Woods program to provide place-based natural resource education opportunities primarily on school forest properties

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare and submit 2-week schedules, timesheets and mileage reimbursement forms
- Conduct at least 2 presentations to community groups about Huron Pines AmeriCorps
- Engage at least 30 volunteers in conservation activities
- Submit 4 “Great Stories”
- Provide regular project updates and photos for the website
- Represent yourself as a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member at all times
- Attend required trainings provided by the AmeriCorps Coordinator

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Bachelor’s Degree
- ✓ Computer efficiency (typing, email, word processing, excel)
- ✓ Ability to pass a background check*
- ✓ U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien
- ✓ Commitment to conserving the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan

On occasion, service will be required at an off-site location. Use of a personal vehicle may be required to perform duties (mileage will be reimbursed). This is a 40 hour per week position and runs from January 4- November 9, 2018. Benefits include \$12,630 living stipend, health insurance, \$5,730 education award and student loan deferment.

Applications and directions are available at www.huronpines.org/amicorps and will be accepted until September 29, 2017.

Reasonable accommodations: If you need to make a request for a reasonable accommodation, due to a disability, such as obtain materials in a format that works for you or to fully participate in the application process, please contact Jake Jermac, AmeriCorps Coordinator at (989) 448-2293 x30 or jake@huronpines.org.

*Registered sex offenders are not eligible for AmeriCorps positions.