

MISSAUKEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Conservation Technician
PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION: Lake City, MI
RESPONSIBLE TO: Sherry L. Blaszak, District Manager

Missaukee Conservation District was formed in 1949 with the intent of providing local assistance to farmers. The focus has since expanded to address soil, water, air, plant, human and animal concerns. MCD's mission is to "serve as a catalyst to promote the wise stewardship of natural resources, through education, planning and technical assistance." The member will be advancing MCD's mission through coordinating new programs - "Plant this, not that" regarding native plantings as opposed to invasives and Michigan Green School designation obtained for at least one school in our county; serving as volunteer coordinator for our Nature Trail, including trail and garden maintenance, and stream monitor sites; providing environmental services to schools including greenhouse education and utilizing school forests as outdoor education sites; meeting with landowners to promote soil sampling, composting, recycling, and surface water protection information; developing environmental stewardship materials to compliment programs administered; implement on-the-ground restoration projects to include invasive species treatments; conduct water quality monitoring programs on stream monitoring sites, conduct resource inventories on school forests, utilize MISIN app to document invasive species. The technician needs to possess excellent communication skills, experience in water quality monitoring and/or resource inventory, environmental education experience and invasive species identification.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE: Major tasks include the promotion of a new program "Plant this, not that" to promote native plantings as opposed to invasives; assist at least one school to obtain Michigan Green School designation; serve as volunteer coordinator for our Nature Trail, including trail and garden maintenance, and stream monitor sites; provide environmental services to schools including greenhouse education and utilizing school forests as outdoor education sites; meet with landowners to promote soil sampling, composting, recycling, and surface water protection; develop environmental stewardship materials to compliment programs administered; implement on-the-ground restoration projects to include invasive species treatments; conduct water quality monitoring programs on stream monitoring sites; conduct resource inventories on school forests; and utilize MISIN app to document invasive species. The technician needs to possess excellent communication skills, experience in water quality monitoring and/or resource inventory, environmental education experience and invasive species identification. Missaukee County travel is required as is physical activity.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

"Plant this, not that"

- Partner with county farm markets to provide information to customers and conduct outreach events.

4241 Old US 27 South, Suite 2, Gaylord, MI 49735 | huronpines.org/amicorps | (989) 448-2293

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- Develop environmental stewardship materials that help identify invasives found locally and correlate them with native plants that have similar positive qualities that can be used instead
- Partner with local cooperative invasive species management area (North Country CISMA) to share information
- Use MISIN app or website to document located invasives

Michigan Green School

- Work with at least one of the three Missaukee County schools to achieve this goal
- Partner with Missaukee Conservation District Associate Board Member to achieve this goal

Volunteer Coordinator

- Missaukee Nature Trail enhancement through weeding, mulching and maintenance
- Coordinate stream monitoring sites and attract more volunteers to monitor new sites

Provide Environmental Education Services to Missaukee County schools

- Partner with Lake City Area Schools' greenhouse to compost kitchen and lunch scraps for use in the greenhouse
- Partner with LCAS science curriculum to provide education sessions in LCAS greenhouse
- Through partnership with Missaukee County Forestry Assistance Program Forester, utilize respective school forests to provide environmental educational services
- Resource inventories will be conducted on school forests

Landowner events

- Promote soil sampling cost share program to provide understanding of soil health and proper fertilizer application
- Demonstrate environmental and financial benefits of composting and recycling

On-the-ground restoration project

- Partner with NCCISMA, Lake City Elementary School and other groups to implement an on-the-ground restoration project at the Lake City Disc Golf Park where several invasives have been identified

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

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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 and Missaukee County
- ✓ Strong natural resources background
- ✓ Comfortable working collaboratively with people, able to prioritize and manage multiple projects simultaneously and can work independently

Preferred Qualifications

- ✓ Some hands-on experience with on-the-ground conservation projects
- ✓ Knowledge of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species (training can be provided)
- ✓ Environmental education experience

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 14- November 15, 2019. Benefits include \$13,732 living stipend, health insurance, \$6,095 education award and student loan deferment.

Applications and directions are available at www.huronpines.org/amicorps and will be accepted until September 28, 2018.

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 Sarah Topp, AmeriCorps Coordinator at (989) 448-2293 x30 or sarah@huronpines.org.

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