

Huron Pines AmeriCorps

Developing leaders in conservation since 2007



Grayling Forest Management Unit, MDNR Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Conservation Technician
PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION: Grayling, Michigan
RESPONSIBLE TO: Tom Barnes, Unit Manager, Grayling FMU

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages over 276,000 acres of state-owned land in the Grayling Forest Management Unit (FMU) located in Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, and Iosco Counties. The Grayling FMU has two natural rivers running through it, the headwaters of the Upper Manistee River and the AuSable River. The large amount of state land combined with a large amount of river interface result in heavy public recreational use on these state lands. Lands in the FMU are managed for multiple objectives including wildlife, fisheries, timber, and recreation. FMU staff interfaces with numerous volunteer groups who assist with management and restoration of our natural resources, particularly in conjunction with the rivers. Better communication, coordination and follow up with these volunteer groups would allow for more work to be accomplished, provide for better communication and education of volunteers, and would result in quality work being accomplished across the landscape

In partnership with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, we are offering an opportunity for a full-time member to work with the Forest Resources Division of the DNR. This position will develop new programs and work with existing conservation programs to include monitoring of volunteer activities; interacting and educating citizens and volunteer organizations; development of interpretive and other outreach materials, monitoring and removal of invasive plants, and the development of natural resource inventories and restoration plans. The position will work with Department staff and volunteers to collect resource information and implement on the ground restoration.

The successful applicant should have a strong natural resources background, knowledge of wildlife, botany, or forestry, and be comfortable working collaboratively with people individually and with groups. 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. Members will be trained in safety protocol and preference will be given to candidates with excellent written and verbal communication skills. Member will be required to obtain pesticide applicator's credentials and hands on experience with power tools, and on-the-ground conservation projects are preferred.

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

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is a program of Huron Pines and is supported in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Michigan Community Service Commission, Huron Pines and contributions from host sites.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps

Developing leaders in conservation since 2007



SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE: The Conservation Technician will be involved in a diverse set of projects to improve natural resources management in the MDNR Grayling FMU. Some experience dealing with the public and conducting scientific surveys is preferred. Onsite training will also be provided. The member will be involved in developing new conservation programs including using volunteers to conduct species surveys and conduct restoration and habitat improvement. The member will design and develop outreach materials and perform field surveys. Service locations include the Grayling MDNR Field Office, other public office sites, and a variety of field sites within Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, and Iosco Counties. Most travel will be day travel around the forest and physical activity will be required.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: RESPONSIBILITIES

Creating new services or programs

- Serve as volunteer coordinator for the FMU to assist with promotion and coordination of volunteer efforts, making sure appropriate permits and permissions are obtained, perform oversight on projects and documentation, and follow up. Examples of volunteer projects include, but are not limited to, Trout Unlimited river bank stabilization, Anglers of the AuSable river clean up, Friends of the Mason Tract pathway maintenance, Michigan Trail Riders horse trail maintenance, Boy Scout restoration projects, Cedars for the AuSable cedar planting, maintenance of the Beal Plantation, Boardman River Clean Sweep river clean up, AuSable Property Owners Association & North Branch Assn Purple Loosestrife monitoring and removal, Upper Manistee River Restoration Committee restoration and habitat projects, PREVEL monitoring and removal of invasive plants, and more.

Provide environmental education programs to local schools and organizations on current topics

- Participate in Kirtland Warbler Education programs & KW Calendar contest for Grayling Schools and provide support when needed with the Kirtland Warbler Festival.
- Participate in planning festivals and educational events such as Kirtland Warbler Festival, Detroit River Days, and Forest Fest. To serve as one of the primary coordinators of Forest Fest, a festival day at Hartwick Pines State Park that educates the public about forest management. As lead, this individual will collaborate with Park Interpreters to develop forest fest passport activities and set up displays and vendors to support the one day educational event.
- Develop informational and interpretive materials and displays on current projects that we want to promote at local State Park visitor centers and other locations such as local library, rest areas, etc.
- Develop environmental stewardship materials to support volunteer projects, landowner interface, and environmental education programs to promote current efforts.
- Meet with local landowners and organizations to promote current projects such as identification and removal of invasive plants.

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

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is a program of Huron Pines and is supported in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Michigan Community Service Commission, Huron Pines and contributions from host sites.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps

Developing leaders in conservation since 2007



Implementing on the ground restoration projects for a variety of management objectives.

- Identify sites and develop restoration plans for eroded and damaged sites along the river and on recreational corridors. Seek out resources to perform restoration.
- Participate in wildlife habitat restoration
- Perform habitat improvement work on badly degraded oil and gas well sites
- Develop trail and pathway re-routes to avoid resource damage
- Maintain documentation and perform Inventory for invasive plants on state forest land and watercourses and develop plans to address invasive species
- Obtain pesticide applicator's credentials and work at invasive species eradication per approved plans, which may involve use of herbicide.
- Develop a plan for native landscaping for the Grayling Field Office
- Participate in wildlife/fisheries/plant surveys if needed, such as annual Kirtland Warbler census, pine barrens plant inventory, etc.
- Participate in training and safety workshops and Department staff meetings
- Monitor, map and maintain PA 288 signage.
- Work with Military on mapping, boundary identification and signing Hansen Refuge.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare and submit 2-week schedules, timesheets and mileage reimbursement forms
- Conduct at least 2 formal 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
- Collaborate with or support other service members' events

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Seeking a 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

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

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is a program of Huron Pines and is supported in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Michigan Community Service Commission, Huron Pines and contributions from host sites.

Huron Pines AmeriCorps

Developing leaders in conservation since 2007



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 30 - November 27, 2020. Benefits include \$13,992 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 30, 2019.

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.

*Registered sex offenders are not eligible for AmeriCorps positions.

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

Huron Pines AmeriCorps is a program of Huron Pines and is supported in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Michigan Community Service Commission, Huron Pines and contributions from host sites.