



Keweenaw Land Trust Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Keweenaw Water Trail Coordinator
PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION: Hancock, Michigan (Upper Peninsula)
RESPONSIBLE TO: Jill Fisher, Botanist and Programming Coordinator

The Keweenaw Land Trust (KLT, <http://keweenawlandtrust.org/>) is a non-profit land and water conservation and stewardship organization serving the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Since 1996, KLT has protected 4220 acres in conservation easements and owns 3500+ acres in 21 nature areas that are open for public low impact use, several of which are waterfront properties.

The Keweenaw Water Trail (KWT) was recently adopted by KLT from its original founders who created a map and website with information to promote safe paddling recreation around the Keweenaw Peninsula. The KWT information is outdated and a new inventory is needed to identify sites of refuge for paddlers for day and overnight use. In addition, KLT would like to engage with a fledgling effort to coordinate water trail information across Lake Superior, and update and promote the more protected Portage Waterway segment of the KWT including newer KLT sites.

The KLT welcomes a full-time Huron Pines AmeriCorps member and their infusion of ideas and energy to enhance our KWT program. We seek a highly motivated, responsible and self-directed individual eager to collaborate with KLT's many partners to develop effective stewardship projects to update and enhance the KWT and bring high quality environmental education and outreach programming. The addition of the AmeriCorps member will allow KLT to improve its services to the local community as well as provide useful and desired tools to increase the enjoyment and safety of paddlers.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE:

The Water Trail Coordinator (WTC) will primarily be responsible for updating the Keweenaw Water Trail Map and related outreach information. The WTC will coordinate with water trail partners and community stakeholders to inventory and update water trail site information with an emphasis on the Portage Waterway segment and user safety. For KLT shoreline sites, they will plan and engage KLT volunteers to implement environmental stewardship projects, to enhance these sites for inclusion in the KWT, including invasive species management; native plant propagation, and infrastructure improvements such as signage and appropriate primitive camping sites and amenities.

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On-site training will be provided. Service locations include the KLT office, many KLT nature areas, and water trail partner sites. This position requires a 10-month commitment and is part of the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program. This position offers opportunities to develop much needed tools for local paddlers as well as leading stewardship activities and creating educational materials.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Partnership Support

- Coordinate with community stakeholders and water trail partners to create an inventory of useable sites and infrastructure available to local paddlers through conference calls, interviews and in-person site visits
- Conduct relevant field visits at potential water trail sites to map, determine suitability and needs
- Coordinate with partners to develop appropriate and uniform signage and site information to be used in outreach materials

Community Education/Outreach

- Design and populate the newly updated Keweenaw Water Trail and Portage Waterway Segment maps
- Craft signage for water trail sites
- Strategize educational materials for sites such as information on habitats, native plants and wildlife
- Create web pages on the KLT website for the Keweenaw Water Trail
- Plan and participate in community outreach events that highlight the water trail and this update project
- Develop volunteer programming for stewardship on KLT water trail sites
- Write articles for newspaper, partners email lists and newsletters
- Utilize relevant online resources and social media

Stewardship Activities/Projects

- Conduct site inventories including: condition of landings, invasive species, present condition of native shoreline vegetation, infrastructure such as camping, picnicking restroom facilities, signage, etc.
- Organize and run volunteer stewardship days such as invasive species removal, installing a fire pit, clearing sites for new camping spots, etc.
- Provide support for new and ongoing native plant shoreline restoration projects, possibly to include stamp sand (mining legacy) restoration.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare and submit 2-week schedules, timesheets and mileage reimbursement forms

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- 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 in some environmental or outdoor recreation field
- ✓ Paddling and primitive camping experience required
- ✓ Computer efficiency (typing, email, word processing, excel)
- ✓ Experience working with volunteer groups and community stakeholders preferred
- ✓ Knowledge of Great Lakes natural history and/or conservation biology preferred
- ✓ 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 28-December 3, 2021. Benefits include \$14,279 living stipend, health insurance, \$6,195 education award and student loan deferment.

Applications and directions are available at www.huronpines.org/amicorps and will be accepted until October 12, 2020.

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 Amanda Vanaman, AmeriCorps Program Manager at (989) 448-2293 x30 or amanda@huronpines.org.

*Registered sex offenders are not eligible for AmeriCorps positions.

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