



Michigan Natural Features Inventory Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Conservation Science Technician
PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION: Lansing, Michigan
RESPONSIBLE TO: Rebecca Rogers, MNFI GIS/IT Manager

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) is a program of Michigan State University Extension that works in close cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other conservation partners. MNFI is part of an international network of over 85 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the U.S., Canada and Latin America; dedicated to the collection of information on biological diversity. MNFI develops and maintains the only comprehensive biological and conservation database on Michigan's rare plants and animals, natural communities, and other significant natural features. This data is used by federal, state, local agencies and private organizations/individuals to guide land management, development, as well as conservation decisions.

In partnership with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, MNFI is offering an opportunity for two members to serve in Lansing, Michigan for 10 months, with service being done throughout the state. The successful candidate will assist with the maintenance of Michigan's Natural Heritage Database and serve alongside conservation scientists and associates in collecting data and communicating information about Michigan's rare plants, animals and natural communities.

The applicant should have a strong natural resources background and knowledge of Michigan and/or Midwestern fauna, flora, and ecosystems. Some experience interacting with the public and conducting scientific surveys is preferred. The member should be organized, self-motivated, detail-oriented, able to follow protocols and be enthusiastic. Good oral and written communication skills are a must. The applicant should be willing to work both independently and as part of a team. Preference will be given to candidates with experience navigating and recording locational information using maps, compass, aerial photos, and GPS equipment, as well as experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE:

The Conservation Science Technician will add value to a diverse set of projects within the organization. They will collect, analyze and communicate information about Michigan's natural heritage. Onsite training will be provided in natural heritage spatial data methodology, database management & GIS. The member will assist in the development of new or ongoing conservation programs by conducting outreach and

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educational programming to partners, volunteers, and citizen scientists as well as managing volunteers to conduct surveys.

Onsite training in the identification of rare species in Michigan and field survey techniques/protocols will be provided. Field work will require frequent travel, variable and/or long work hours or schedules in the field, often under adverse conditions (e.g. hot, humid weather, biting insects, difficult terrain), and sometimes in remote locations. Applicants should have a valid driver's license and may be required to use their own vehicle. If so, mileage will be reimbursed at the standard MSU rate. When overnight stay is required, meal and lodging costs will also be reimbursed. Occasional work on holidays and/or weekends may be required.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Program: Natural Heritage Partnership Program

- Maintain Michigan's Natural Heritage Database to inform biodiversity conservation by entering survey data and information provided by natural resource professionals and the public.
- Developing an understanding for natural heritage spatial data methodology and heritage database management through the use of GIS
- Develop and strengthen heritage focused relationships by coordinating data sharing across organizations within Michigan.

Program: MNFI Rare Animal, Plant and Community Field Surveys across Michigan

Survey targets include:

- Rare amphibians and reptiles
- Rare bumble bees, butterflies, moths and other insects
- Grassland birds, wetland birds and forest birds
- Rare plant surveys
- Invasive plants surveys
- Ecological surveys

Program: Environmental Education Services

- Deliver educational programs on vernal pools, watershed health and the impact of invasive species to participating middle and high school students and teachers in a classroom and/or field setting.
- Develop education and outreach materials/resources on vernal pools for distribution to teachers and community members.
- Update materials (web maps, pamphlets, species abstracts, etc.) made available to the public on rare species and natural communities.

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.

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HPA 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

HPA QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Bachelor’s Degree, preferred degrees in biology, GIS, natural resource management
- ✓ 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 Michigan

A Full-time member will serve a minimum of 1,700 hours from January 28 - December 3, 2021. Benefits include \$14,279 living stipend, health insurance, \$6,195 education award and student loan deferment. On occasion, service will be required at an off-site location. Use of a personal vehicle may be required to attend training and member duties, mileage will be reimbursed.

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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