



Position Announcement
Housatonic Valley Associations
Still River Watershed Connections
Crew Leader



Summary:

The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) is seeking an enthusiastic and motivated individual to lead a small crew of young people on environmental restoration work in the summer of 2020.

About HVA:

HVA is the watershed conservation organization and accredited land trust whose mission is to protect the natural character and environmental health of the Housatonic River Watershed for this and future generations. The Housatonic River Watershed covers nearly 2,000 square miles across western Massachusetts, western Connecticut, eastern New York, and ultimately to Long Island Sound. HVA partners with business and community leaders to achieve its mission through three major programs and associated projects: 1) Land Protection aimed at conserving our most vulnerable natural areas and special places; 2) Watershed Conservation aimed at protecting rivers, streams and drinking water supplies; and 3) Community Education and Events with projects aimed at, among other things, river cleanups, family hikes and paddling events, and publications that reach land use leaders, river users and the public at large. This position is within the Watershed Conservation department.

About the Still River Watershed Connections (“Connections”) Program:

Connections is a youth program focused on the Still River watershed in the Danbury metropolitan area. This program emerged from an ongoing local watershed planning effort to restore water quality in the Still River and its tributaries. The program provides high school students with opportunities to build personal connections to the river and each other by working on restoration projects that improve habitat and water quality in the Still River. In the process students gain exposure to key job skills and careers in environmental science that will ultimately help catalyze future stewardship in their communities. You can find out more about the Still River Watershed Plan and the Connections program on the stillriverwatershed.org website.

Position Description:

The Crew Leader will be responsible for summer program delivery throughout the summer of 2020. Specific restoration projects may include, but are not be limited to: invasive plant management; riparian buffer plantings; water quality sampling; trail maintenance; stream health data collection and GPS mapping. This program has three goals that the Crew Leader will be responsible for: 1) Implementation of the Still River Watershed Plan; 2) Environmental education and career development for the youth in the program; and 3) Public outreach about the program and Still River Watershed Planning efforts. At the end of the season, the Crew Leader will help the crew design and execute a presentation to the community about the work they’ve accomplished.

Program Structure:

This is an full time position (40 hours/week) from late-June to mid-August. During the first and last week, the Crew Leader will work with HVA staff at our office in Cornwall Bridge, CT on program preparation and wrap-up. The rest of the time, the Crew Leader will work directly with the crew on restoration projects. The Crew Leader is directly supervised by HVA’s Conservation Projects Manager.

Duties:

- Be the public face of the Connections Program
- Design and deliver environmental education lesson plans both in-field and in classroom (during inclement weather)
- Plan and execute daily activities, guiding high school students to complete restoration goals and become advocates for the Still River
- Reinforce positive work etiquette and approve crew members' time sheets
- Ensure group cohesion and harmony. Resolve conflict proactively.
- Coordinate with program partners when necessary (e.g. Danbury Youth Services, local conservation professionals, town staff)
- Ensure the personal safety of crew members
- Public outreach through social media management, infield engagement with the public and engagement with reporters.
- Track program impact through data collection and management
- Provide guidance to students interact with the public in their daily tasks and their end of season presentations

Required Experience/Qualifications:

- Experience working outdoors with groups of young people (ages 14-19). Examples may include, but are not limited to: outdoor leadership programs, trail maintenance crew, science education, camp experience, etc.
- Strong scientific background in environmental science, hydrology, natural resource management, or similar field
- Experience working outdoors on restoration projects, trail maintenance, or other related field experience
- Enthusiasm for teaching and learning
- Excellent interpersonal, conflict resolution, communication and organizational skills
- Familiarity using Facebook and Instagram
- Valid driver's license, clean driving record, willingness to drive truck/rental van when necessary
- First Aid/CPR training (HVA can help qualified applicants obtain this training)

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience planning environmental education activities on a daily and/or weekly basis
- Familiarity with the Still River and/or any of the towns in the watershed, which include Danbury, Bethel, Brookfield, New Milford, Newtown, and Ridgefield, CT
- Spanish and/or Portuguese fluency is a plus

Time and Compensation:

- This is a full-time seasonal position from late-June to mid-August. Exact start date TBD.
- Salary Range: \$4500 - \$7000 stipend

To Apply:

- Send cover letter describing interest and qualifications, resume, and contact information for 3 references to Courteny Morehouse (HVA Conservation Projects Manager) at courtenymorehouse.hva@gmail.com for questions about this position email or call 860-672-6678 x 108
- Position open until filled