



Position Announcement  
Housatonic Valley Associations  
**Still River Watershed Connections**  
**Crew Leader**



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**Summary:**

The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) is seeking an enthusiastic and motivated individual to teach and lead a crew of high school youth on environmental restoration work in the summer of 2021.

**Position Description:**

The Crew Leader will be responsible for teaching watershed science and supervising a crew of students as they work on and learn from restoration projects throughout the Danbury, CT area. 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.

**Duties:**

- Plan and execute daily activities, guiding high school students to complete restoration goals
- Ensure the personal safety of crew members
- Reinforce positive work etiquette and approve crew members' time sheets
- Ensure group cohesion and harmony. Resolve conflict proactively.
- Design and deliver environmental education lesson plans both in-field and online (if necessary)
- Communicate field work and crew progress with program partners
- Public outreach through social media management and outreach material creation
- Track program impact through data collection and management
- Provide guidance to students as they interact with the public through their daily tasks and their end of season presentations
- Be the public face of the Connections Program in the field

**Required Experience/Qualifications:**

- Experience supervising 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, biology, 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
- Applicant must have access to a reliable vehicle, valid driver's license, clean driving record

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Experience planning environmental education activities on a daily and/or weekly basis
- Spanish and/or Portuguese fluency is a plus
- Wilderness First Aid/CPR training (HVA can help qualified applicants obtain this training)

**About HVA:**

HVA is the watershed conservation organization 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 from the Berkshires through western Connecticut and ultimately to the Long Island Sound. HVA achieves its mission through three major programs: 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. This position is within the Watershed Conservation department. Learn more about HVA at [hvatoday.org](http://hvatoday.org)

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

Connections is a youth program focused on the Still River watershed in the Danbury, CT 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 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 build 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and 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](http://stillriverwatershed.org) website.

**Program Structure:**

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

**Compensation:**

- Hourly rate commensurate with experience.
- Mileage reimbursement for non-commute travel
- Unfortunately housing assistance is not available at this time.

**To Apply:**

- Send a cover letter describing interest and qualifications, resume, and references in *a single PDF document with your full name and “Connections Crew Leader” in the title* to Erik Hazelton (HVA Southern Valley Conservation Projects Manager) at [ehazelton.hva@gmail.com](mailto:ehazelton.hva@gmail.com)
- Application deadline is **May 22**, applications will be reviewed in the order they are received.