



Housatonic Valley Association River Information & Outreach (RIO) Stewards

2022 Positions Available- Weekends Only



The [Housatonic Valley Association \(HVA\)](#) is seeking applicants to fill **three** River Information & Outreach (RIO) Stewards positions, available for summer 2022. This position is for **weekends only**. The RIO Stewards will work 8-hour days on Saturday and Sunday (approximately 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) for a minimum of 12 weeks (June 18 to September 4, 2022). ***(Please apply even if you cannot work until September 4- these dates can be flexible for the right candidate!)***

In 2018, HVA launched the RIO program as a response to reports of high visitor density at non-state, non-federal Housatonic River access sites in northwest Connecticut. These sites have fewer amenities in place (e.g., trash receptacles, restrooms), and dense crowds can negatively impact sites by contributing to litter and erosion. The overall goal of the RIO program is to preserve the outstanding natural character of Housatonic River access sites and ensure safe and equitable access, with a specific objective of engaging with the public to inform about responsible use of access sites (e.g., Leave No Trace principles).

Position Description

The 2022 RIO Stewards will be supervised by HVA's Conservation Project Managers. The work will be almost entirely field based, as the Stewards travel among priority river access sites, with approximately 10% office work (data entry and cleaning). RIO Stewards will be based out of the HVA office in Cornwall Bridge, CT.

Each weekend, RIO Stewards will travel as a team among the high-priority river access sites along Route 7 (Gaylordsville up to Falls Village, CT, see map). While at the sites, Stewards will engage with site visitors, conducting informal outreach and ensuring that visitors are aware of the site rules and best practices. Stewards will also collect data (e.g., car counts), which will help us better understand how sites are being used.

Additional tasks will include litter clean-up and helping out with community engagement events. There may also be opportunities to work with HVA staff members and community partners to develop more effective outreach materials and strategies.



***Working together for public river recreation that is safe,
equitable and inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.***

Qualifications

This position would be a great fit for someone interested in outdoor recreation, park management, and/or the human dimensions of natural resource management. Candidates should be passionate about conservation and able to succeed as part of a two-person team. In addition, the ideal candidate will possess:

- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Ability to approach and engage with strangers;
- Familiarity with recreation management and/or previous experience related to high visitor density in natural areas;
- Ability to represent HVA in a professional manner;
- Ability to work weekends
- Spanish and/or Portuguese fluency is a plus

Requirements: *Daily access to a reliable personal vehicle is a requirement of the position (HVA does not have a field vehicle, so all field work will be done in personal cars with mileage reimbursements.)*

Compensation: The intern will be compensated at a rate of \$15/hour for 16 hours per week, for the course of the internship. Work-related travel using personal vehicles will be compensated based on mileage. Housing is not provided, but HVA will assist successful applicants in finding lodging near the HVA office, if necessary.

Application Procedure: Submit the following materials via email (as a single PDF, titled “[YourLastName]_RIOSteward”):

1. **COVER LETTER** explaining your interest and qualifications
2. **RESUME**
3. **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TWO (2) PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

Deadline: Applications will be reviewed and positions filled on a rolling basis, so we encourage interested individuals to apply early. We intend to fill all positions by May 1, at the latest.

Questions and applications should be directed to:

Lindsay Larson, HVA Connecticut Watershed Manager
lkeenereck.hva@gmail.com

HVA is an equal opportunity employer. *If you have the drive, interest and skills to succeed in this position, tell us about what you can do and we will consider your application.* HVA provides equal employment opportunities to all eligible persons and administers personnel policies and practices in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws. We do not discriminate or abide discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, political belief or affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, legal history, genetic information, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability unless such disability prevents performance of the work required. Our commitment to equal opportunity is a guiding principle in all of our employment practices and policies.