



Housatonic Valley Association River Information & Outreach (RIO) Stewards Three Positions Available for Summer 2022!



The [Housatonic Valley Association \(HVA\)](#) is seeking applicants to fill **three** River Information & Outreach (RIO) Stewards positions, available for summer 2022. RIO Stewards will each weekend approximately 12 weeks (June 18 to September 4, 2022). *Please note that start and end dates AND hours worked per work can be flexible – email us for details!*

The goal of the RIO program is to promote safe, sustainable, and equitable access to Housatonic river recreation areas in northwestern Connecticut.

Position Description

The work is almost entirely field based, as the RIO 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, visiting river recreation areas along Route 7 (New Milford to Salisbury, CT, see map). While at the sites, Stewards engage with site visitors, answer questions, and promote sustainable site use and Leave No Trace practices. Stewards 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, invasive plant removal and identification, and helping with community engagement events. There may also be opportunities to work with community partners to develop more effective outreach materials and strategies, and also to conduct environmental fieldwork, based on the interest of the applicant.

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 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. **BRIEF 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 31st, 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.