

AmeriCorps Natural Resource Management Team Leader Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

Duration of Program: August 15th, 2017 – July 15th, 2018

The Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites (GSPHS) AmeriCorps Natural Resource Management Team Leaders will serve to make significant improvements to our unique natural resources across the state for their preservation and for the use and enjoyment of all Georgians and visitors. The Georgia State Park system operates 63 facilities across the state in the mountains, the piedmont and the upper/lower coastal regions each of which has important resource challenges that the members will engage through hands-on projects. A primary focus will be invasive species mitigation projects since it is a significant contributor to habitat loss. Another major focus will be participation in controlled burns, a critical resource management practice. Successful members will emerge with an excellent set of skills for possible continued work in Georgia State Parks or other similar settings, as well as funds to be used for education.

Position Description: The GSPHS AmeriCorps Resource Management Team essential functions will include, but are not limited to:

- Removal of invasive plant species from natural ecosystems;
- Restoration of grasslands and river cane;
- Protection of threatened Hemlock trees;
- Habitat restoration including American Chestnut trees and Monarch Butterfly/pollinator projects;
- Updating and re-blazing state park property boundaries;
- Trail improvements and repairs;
- Use of resource equipment including: chainsaws, ATV/UTVs, chemical injectors, backpack sprayers and skid sprayers, machetes, chippers, and state vehicles;
- Will receive the following training: CPR, 1st aid, ATV, chainsaw, fire, trail work, chemical (invasive), boundary and survey, and monarch and river cane habitat restoration;
- Participate in prescribed burns.

Team Leader Additional Responsibilities: In collaboration with the AmeriCorps Program Leader, the GSPHS AmeriCorps Resource Management Team Leader essential functions will include, but are not limited to:

- Motivate, direct, and coordinate a team in a structured program of service, education, and training; maintain order; develop positive team morale; foster teamwork; monitor standards of behavior; model a good service ethic and serve alongside members to set the pace;
- Plan daily and weekly team schedules that will result in the execution of project objectives and activities. Manage service-learning projects;
- Assist and support members in the development of leadership skills. Identify and nurture leadership opportunities at the service project site and otherwise;
- Coordinate project logistics with unit leaders, participate in staff and member meetings, and serve as programmatic and administrative liaison between members and key GSPHS staff;
- Conduct regularly scheduled team meetings designed to unify team members by building consensus, resolving conflicts, and providing structured feedback;
- Fostering a service environment with the goal of members' safety and well-being;

- Facilitate, encourage, support, and model service-learning integration. Conduct or coordinate training such as skills building workshops, safe service practices, team-building exercises, mini-courses, and physical training in collaboration with GSPHS staff;
- Submit written reports on project progress, achievements, and accomplishments; member evaluations; and special activities or incidents. Maintain daily records, time off requests, service forms, etc.;
- Monitor clean-up of common areas of living quarters, room cleanliness, uniform appearance, desk-staffing, quiet hours, and adherence to all AmeriCorps policies. Support residential life experience through conflict mediation, crisis intervention, counseling, etc.;
- Represent GSPHS AmeriCorps to the media, as necessary.

General Requirements:

- Positive attitude;
- Good communication and writing skills;
- Capable of strenuous exertion including long periods outdoors in various temperatures; heavy lifting, and operation of resource management related equipment and tools;
- Education or experience in resource management, environmental science or ecology;
- Well-organized;
- Self-motivated and able to function independently and with a team;
- Basic computer skills;
- A desire to learn;
- Flexible daily schedule;
- Flexibility to serve weekends and some holidays.

Minimum Requirements/Qualifications:

- 18+ years of age;
- U.S. Citizen;
- Must have a U.S. Driver's license.

Preferred (but not required): B.S. in Resource Management, Forestry, Ecology, Environmental Science, GIS, Surveying, or a related field. (Experience may substitute for degree.)

Salary and benefits: Living Stipend. Eligible for health insurance coverage, childcare assistance, and student loan deferment and forbearance on qualified loans. Housing available. Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (funds to be used for education) upon service completion. Variety of training and certifications.

Housing: On-site dormitory housing is offered. Room assignments are decided on a first come first served basis. No rent. Utilities included. Rooms include heat/air, bedroom, bathroom, cooking and common room with a television. Laundry facilities are available. Members provide their own linens, towels, and food.

AmeriCorps members will frequently travel to parks around the state to conduct projects and may stay for extended periods of time. During these travels the crew may utilize an RV camper trailer with heat/air, shower/bathroom, and kitchenette.

Interested applicants should submit cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least 2 references to: *Kent.Wall@dnr.ga.gov*.