



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

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TRAIL STEWARD

Since 1920, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has been committed to educating and assisting the public in the safe, enjoyable, and responsible use of trails. To advance our efforts, in 2013 we began deploying Trail Stewards at popular hiking destinations. Trail Stewards are assigned to Breakneck Ridge, the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain, or in the Catskills. They provide helpful outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, and other best practices, including Leave No Trace principles. In addition to readying hikers for their journeys, Stewards help discourage and mitigate misuse of the trails and the surrounding lands through their education and public relations work. They aim to plant the seed of responsibility—everyone who enjoys these trails has a role to play in caring for them—and work to cultivate volunteers who are motivated to give back.

Stewards are onsite Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from Memorial Day Weekend through Columbus Day. Each Steward receives occasional weekends off. Stewards must be able to work independently with minimal supervision and cooperatively as a member of a team. Applicants should demonstrate the interest and ability to contribute to the public-service effort of working to promote the responsible use of trails, volunteerism, and membership in the Trail Conference. They must possess the skills listed below and be able to attend required training in the spring. Applicants must be 18 years or older and demonstrate maturity, responsibility, initiative, and self-motivation.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Meet and greet the public and educate them about hiking best practices and preparedness.
- Introduce trail users to the Trail Conference and Leave No Trace principles.
- Advise visitors and hikers of state and local regulations.
- Assist visitors and hikers whenever possible; assist emergency-response agencies when requested.
- Report unsafe conditions, misuse, and abuse of the trails (including vandalism, fires, suspicious persons, vehicles, etc.)
- Promote Trail Conference volunteer opportunities and the public's participation in land stewardship events.

Required Skills

- Proven ability to work alone with minimal supervision.
- Excellent communication, diplomacy, and education skills.
- Ability to interact with the public under stressful conditions.
- Extensive hiking experience and the ability to hike steep terrain for several hours.
- Current first aid and CPR certification.

Desired Skills

- Wilderness First Aid certification.
- Knowledge of the Trail Conference and hiking in the New York metropolitan region.
- Knowledge of Leave No Trace principles.
- Previous trail volunteer experience.
- Familiarity with using social media to promote the responsible use of trails.
- Preference will be given to bilingual applicants.

Application

To apply, please submit the following items via email attachments to jobs@nynjtc.org. Start all attachment filenames with your last name. Your email subject line should be: "Trail Steward Position."

1. Resume
2. Cover letter addressing why you are interested in this position and what skills and attributes you bring.
3. Please indicate location preference: Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, or Catskills.

All application materials will be kept confidential. The position is available until filled. Candidate interviews will begin immediately. No calls please.