



Trail Conference Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Position Opening: Aquatic ISF Crew Member



Do you love the outdoors and want to protect it? Thinking about a career in the environment? Come join the movement!

Spend this field season protecting New York's waters from aquatic invasive species on the Aquatic Invasives Strike Force Crew (AISF)! As part of the AISF Crew, members will conduct aquatic vegetation and invertebrate surveys on various lakes and rivers throughout the Lower Hudson Valley. These surveys are critical in early detection and rapid response efforts in the region. The crew will assist in invasive plant management in several lakes and make a tangible difference in controlling the spread of invasives. The AISF Crew will also participate in the Lower Hudson PRISM Watercraft Inspection Steward Program, providing critical education and outreach to boaters on AIS identification and spread prevention methods while performing voluntary boat inspections and collecting data on boater habits.

We are seeking three crew members who share our passion for conservation of freshwater ecosystems and the Lower Hudson Valley. The crew member is responsible for working with the AISF Crew Leader and program coordinator to perform successful completion of projects. Aquatic plant and animal identification, survey training, and steward training will be provided.

Program Overview:

Our AmeriCorps crews are trained by industry experts in sustainable trail building, invasive species management, public outreach, volunteer engagement, and outdoor leadership. You will receive a living stipend for your service and are eligible for education awards through our partnership with AmeriCorps.

Members learn and serve in the greater New York metropolitan region, which features the nation's finest system of trails outside of a major urban area. From trail construction to habitat restoration to visitor education, you can provide vital resources to the public parks you enjoy. For more information about our Corps, check out www.nynjtc.org/corps

Service Location: The Lower Hudson Valley of New York

Term of Service: A minimum of 900-hour term of service May 14 through October 26, Thursday-Monday (hours may vary from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM). Most workdays will be spent outdoors, in all weather, and will include weekends and some holidays. While on duty, successful candidates will wear a provided uniform.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct detailed field surveys of aquatic plants and invertebrates (native and invasive) following specific procedures
- Perform manual invasive plant removals
- Educate boaters about aquatic invasive species and teach clean boating practices, i.e. by distributing outreach and educational material to watercraft users while performing voluntary boat inspections
- Prepare reports on work completed and log data collected
- Work alongside leadership to fulfill responsibilities in supply and equipment maintenance and data management
- Complete one seasonal research or education project (literature review, develop outreach materials, update website AIS species database, etc.)

Skills and Attributes Required:

- Interest in aquatic invasive species education and management
- Ability to remain calm and be comfortable with insect and animal encounters, including snakes (rare), spiders, and other aquatic insects and invertebrates
- Strong organizational, interpersonal and written communication skills
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude in adverse conditions
- Must be able to conduct moderate physical field work in rugged terrain, all weather, and aquatic environments
- Must hold and maintain a valid driver's license with access to a reliable vehicle for transportation of self, tools, and supplies to field sites (including kayaks/canoes with racks provided)
- Must have reliable cell phone

- Must be willing to travel throughout the Lower Hudson Valley to assigned launches and survey locations (some travel reimbursement provided)

Desired Qualifications:

- College education in ecology, biology, natural resources management or related field.
- Basic knowledge and ability to identify native and invasive aquatic vegetation of New York
- Experience with ArcGIS software and with using a hand-held GPS to perform vegetation surveys
- Demonstrated outreach skills and teaching experience

Member Benefits:

- Free, as needed, rustic cabin housing at a local park, on a first come first served basis
- Bi-weekly pre-tax living allowance not to exceed \$10,350 total
- Upon successful completion of the program, an education award of \$3,097.50
- Opportunity for qualified student loan deferment and interest repayment
- Training in Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED and Basic Kayak Safety

Enrollment Requirements:

An individual must be at least 18 years of age; have a high school diploma or GED; be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien; pass a three-part national service criminal history check of the national sex-offender registry, state repository check, and FBI fingerprint check; and complete all pre-service orientation and training requirements. Documentation of age, education and citizenship are due by the first day of orientation. Criminal history checks will be initiated before the start of service; an individual will be ineligible if s/he is required to register on the National Sex Offender Registry, has been convicted of murder, or fails to disclose any previous conviction. Other convictions or pending charges will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with program policy.

To Apply:

Go to <https://www.nynjtc.org/corpsmembers>

Applications accepted until the positions are filled, with preference given to those received before February 17th.

For questions, email AIS Program Manager, Lindsay Yoder at lyoder@teatown.org or Conservation Corps Manager, Tori Finn at vfinn@nynjtc.org.