



Friends of Princeton Open Space

Friends of Princeton Open Space

57 Mountain Avenue

Princeton, NJ 08540

Land Steward Internship

The Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS) is seeking (1) additional Stewardship Intern for fall and winter of 2021. The intern will work under the direction of stewardship staff, assisting in the day-to-day activities of managing an open space preserve. The majority of the intern's work will be focused on invasive plant removal within a 35-acre riparian restoration project area that buffers Mountain Lake, and portions of Mountain Brook. As a small non-profit organization, FOPOS relies on its volunteers to meet our stewardship goals and hosts frequent volunteer sessions at the Preserve. Stewardship Interns will play a critical role in organizing and leading these events, typically held on weekends.

Job Description

- Invasive species management: manual removal (using loppers, pruners, and hand saws) and monitoring of target invasive plants including burning bush, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, privet, among others.
- Organize, lead, and co-lead volunteer stewardship sessions with the public, school and corporate groups. Must be available to work some weekends.
- Monitor and care for restoration project areas, completing tasks such as weeding, watering, planting, seed collection, mulching, targeted invasive removal, and the installation and repair of protective deer caging. Much of this work will occur within an 18-acre Forest Restoration Project site recently planted with 8,000+ native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.
- Research of native and invasive plant species and their role in the ecosystem to support agency projects.
- Contribute photos and written content that helps to highlight and promote the stewardship work we do at FOPOS, and an opportunity to contribute to our Fall newsletter.
- Opportunity to create a conservation-based independent project that supports agency needs.
- Engage in additional educational opportunities as relevant, such as lectures, exhibits, and nature walks.
- Administrative support including folder organization and file management.

The interns will learn plant identification skills, conduct environmental outreach with the public, and receive valuable experience in a wide range of land management activities. They will partake in the day-to-day activities of managing an open space preserve for a non-profit entity.

Duration: Sept. 2021 – Nov/Dec 2021 (start & end dates can be flexible)

Hours: Variable and flexible work schedule that must include some weekend dates for volunteer events. Approximately 8-16 hrs/week, must commit to completing a minimum of 100 hours across the fall/winter season. Schedule may need to flex to accommodate weather, agency needs, and scheduled events.

Compensation: \$12/hour

Location: Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, located at 57 Mountain ave in Princeton, NJ

Requirements: Ideal candidates will be actively pursuing a degree in ecology, natural resource management, or related fields; must possess a strong interest in conservation, desire to work outdoors and tolerant of various weather/field conditions, and the ability to conduct physically strenuous field work. Applicants must be able to work both independently and as a member of a team, be punctual, and maintain a positive attitude. Applicants must have their own transportation and live within commuting distance of Princeton. We do not provide field housing.

Desirable Skills: This internship program is well-suited for students that have a strong interest in natural resource and land management, protecting water systems, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, conservation biology, environmental education/outreach, and for those eager to hone their plant identification skills. Familiarity with native and invasive plant identification, ecological field monitoring/surveying, gardening/landscaping, and GPS/GIS mapping are a plus, but not required.

To apply: Please send a resume, cover letter and contact information for three references *in one document* to Anna Corichi at info@fopos.org. Your cover letter should describe why you are interested in this internship, how your skillset suits the position, and why you feel it would advance your career objectives. Additionally, please include your general weekly availability. We are currently accepting applications and will fill the position once a qualified candidate is selected.

For more information about the Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS), please visit our website at www.FOPOS.org.

