



2021 MEVO and NYNJTC Summer Trail Crew Job Description

*All dates, activities, and experiential learning are subject to change based on Covid

MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc.) in partnership with the NYNJTC (New York-New Jersey Trail Conference) is recruiting hard working college students with the desire to make a groundbreaking impact on our ecological future for our 2020 Trail Crew. This internship is designed for passionate and positive individuals who want to make a difference as leaders in environmental conservation, advocate for ecologically sensitive management of park systems, and work physically hard building low-impact hiking trails. We offer an experience that shows you how to design, build and maintain hiking trails and park infrastructure, what it takes to manage, grow, and lead a not-for-profit organization, and how to work in partnership with policy makers, citizens, parks departments, and community organizations to be stewards of thousands of acres of parkland.

Work

This summer you and your fellow crew members will work throughout the Northern New Jersey area to accomplish several trail building projects:

1. Design, build, and maintain low-impact hiking trails with the NYNJ Trail Conference and their AmeriCorps Crew throughout North New Jersey park system.
2. Plan and execute trail building projects to minimize erosion and repair neglected trails in order to improve the regions hiking experience.
3. Lead community volunteers and organizations in carrying out much-needed trail building projects throughout the region including cutting fresh trail, installing water bars, and building stone steps and staircases.
4. Work in partnership with our other crews to provide support to the MEVO Fresh Roots and Lovewell Farms, and occasionally our Beekeeping Program, and Trash Clean-Up initiatives.

Training & Education

- **Week 1: May 23rd - May 26th***
 - General Training: This training week is run by our staff and is designed to introduce interns to MEVO. Throughout the week, we instruct on topics such as leadership,

public speaking, environmental careers, alternative living, volunteer event planning and management, organic farming, health and wellness, and much more. We present on these topics through a mix of guest speakers, site visits, and staff presentations. In addition, this is a time for interns and MEVO staff to get to know each other so we will do plenty of team building and a group hike. Each day runs approximately from 9am-5pm. Hours may vary as the dates approach.

· **Week 2: June 1st - June 3rd ***

- The second week of training will be either a continuation of General Training or a mix of General Training and Crew Specific Training. Each crew's specific leader runs crew Specific training in order to prepare crews for the area of work they will be participating in throughout the summer. The farm crew will spend their week learning from their crew leader and other farmers, gardeners and herbalists, through work and instruction on the Fresh Roots Farm and other farms in the area. Each day runs approximately from 9am-5pm. Hours may vary as the dates approach.

Group Trips

1. **Vermont, June 21st-24th ***: On this trip, we'll spend four days camping in a rustic cabin and working at [Merck Forest and Farmland Center](#) in Rupert, Vermont. During our time at Merck, we will be working in their forest maintaining trails and sugar bush, on the farm working with animals and crops, and in the sap house splitting and stacking wood. We will also have a ton of fun hiking, swimming, and exploring the town of Manchester, VT including time spent at Earth Sky Time Farm, a local community farm, bakery, and event space.
2. TBD: A 1-2 night camping trip to the Catskills or a local farm to work, learn, camp, and meet folks in the agricultural community.

A second trip is not guaranteed and dependent on Covid conditions and intern availability.

Trail Crew Details

Title: Trail Crew Member

Start Date: May 23th 2021

End Date: August 12th 2021

Days for the Internship: Monday (Trail Day), Thursday (Farm and Trail Crew Combined Work Day at Farms, and Sunday (Trail Day)

Work Hours: Monday, 8:30am - 5pm. Thursday, 9:00am - 5pm. Sunday, 8:30am - 5pm.

Training: May 23rd-26th and June 1st-3rd

Pay: Unpaid

*All dates and trips are subject to change.

Responsibilities

1. **Physical volunteering and getting dirty:** MEVO's volunteer work is tiring and you need to be in good physical shape and willing to work hard. You will spend A LOT of your summer outdoors on the farm in the heat and mud, rain or shine!
2. **Public Speaking and Leadership:** We want you to end your internship with the ability to be a leader and get people involved. This means that you will speak in front of groups of people of all ages and be asked to make difficult decisions, at times with little guidance.
3. **Teaching and Volunteer Management:** Every Farm Crew member will work with school groups, corporate groups and more to teach about sustainability and growing food. You have to be willing to teach, improvise, and have patience with your students. You also need to be energized to excite both students and volunteers about what you have to teach, through more structured education and physical work.
4. **Willingness to get the job done:** Some days we work late to finish the task at hand or have to get to the farm early in order to get our projects accomplished. Your crew leader will be there and we need you there, fully present. Please make sure your days and early evenings are completely free Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. We suggest that you refrain from scheduling evening summer classes and work shifts during these days in order to accommodate longer work days when required. Plus, you'll be beat!

Requirements

1. **Mode of transportation:** We operate throughout northern New Jersey which means we will be traveling to different locations for work and training. You need a way to get to our meet up location in Mahwah, NJ. We carpool most days so you will either be driving in the carpool or carpooling in someone else's ride.
2. **Attendance:** Every intern must attend every day of the internship, including training:
 - **You must complete 200 in-the-field hours** (this only includes workday hours not training or trip hours). If you do not achieve the 200 hours, we will be unable to provide you with a certificate of completion for the internship as well as class credit at your school.
 - If you have a vacation planned during the internship, you are allowed to take three consecutive work days off, but must be responsible for making up the twenty four work hours missed. Interns must report their vacation dates to the crew leaders before or during General Training Week (5/24-26).
 - Every intern who is not taking a vacation may have one day off, which they must tell their crew leader about at least one week before the date. If you take your one day off, you will be responsible for making up eight hours of work.

- Set days and events will be offered for you to work and make up your hours. These days will be any Saturday Stag Hill Trash Cleanup during the internship season, help with large volunteer events, or help with our Market Harvest on Fridays.
 - *We will ensure opportunities for interns to make up their hours up to a twenty four hour deficit. Beyond twenty-four hours, we cannot ensure make up work days, but will provide what we can.*
3. **Working Laptop:** Occasionally, we ask our interns to participate in administrative work with us or bring a computer to training.
 4. **Trips:** There will be 1-2 trips over the summer, and it is mandatory that you attend them. Please make sure you are physically and mentally able to participate in these trips. They provide some of the most rewarding experiences of the summer and are meant to push your limits. The successful completion of your summer internship is not possible without attendance on our trips.
 5. **Training:** You must be able to attend all days of training so plan accordingly.

Covid Considerations:

Summer dates and activities are dependent on the viral load and conditions in our area. We are determined to provide a robust and educational summer, but safety of our staff and crews are our highest concern. All MEVO events and training will be outdoors and masks will be required when first meeting each other, when working with groups and volunteers, and when carpooling.

If viral conditions in our area worsen at any point in the summer, we will cut back on volunteer programming and may eliminate all trips. I

A Glimpse of MEVO

MEVO is an environmental not-for-profit organization based in Northern New Jersey. We are led entirely by young people: college and graduate students as well as young spirited adults. MEVO works throughout the region on a variety of volunteer environmental projects ranging from trash clean-ups to organic farming, building low-impact hiking trails, and teaching people about local beekeeping. Since MEVO was founded in June 2008, the organization has mobilized and engaged over 8,000 volunteers contributing over 70,000 hours of volunteer work to Northern New Jersey and lower New York state communities. MEVO is well known for its work in partnership with the Ramapough Lunaape Nation with whom they have collectively led a clean-up effort for the removal of over 570,000 lbs of pollution and trash. This trash has been and continues to be illegally dumped in the forests surrounding the homes of the residents living in the Stag Hill community in Mahwah, New Jersey. In addition, MEVO builds and manages sustainable farms and gardens which provide educational programs about the importance of whole, sustainably grown foods and ways to address our environmental impact.

How to apply

Send your resume and cover letter to our Executive Director, Violet Reed at violet@mevo.org and CC our Trail Crew Leader Zak Kircher at zak@mevo.org. If you would like to introduce yourself before submitting your information or if you want to ask any questions, you may also contact Violet by cell phone at 201-316-4888.