Seasonal Crew Member

Want to work and live in some of the most pristine, remote, and ecologically diverse areas in the southeastern United States? Interested in gaining hands-on job experience in the field of conservation? Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) is looking for crew members to work on multi-day backcountry stewardship projects. These seasonal positions run 12 weeks, starting May 18 and ending August 7.

Crew members will be provided detailed training, including Wilderness First Aid, crosscut saw certification, and skills instruction at the Wilderness Skills Institute (May 18-29), a joint training program of the SAWS program, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the US Forest Service.

Following training, crews of four members, led by a crew leader and assistant crew leader, will spend 10 weeks completing stewardship projects. Crews will work 10 days at a time, camped in backcountry locations, and will have 4 days off between hitches. Members will be directed by their assigned crew leader and assistant crew leader in the field, and will report to the Executive Director of SAWS.

Field Work

Wilderness stewardship encompasses a broad range of field projects. Some project types crews may engage in include:

- Non-native and invasive species removal
- Trail relocations
- Erosion control (installing water bars, grade dips, log or stone steps, etc.)
- Baseline species data collection
- Public education (Leave No Trace, bear safety and awareness, Wilderness education, etc.)
- Mitigating campsite impacts
- Reestablishing trail tread
- Brushing trail corridors and removing downed trees

Position Location

Positions will be based in Tellico Plains, TN, or in western North Carolina. Crews will work in wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and inventoried roadless areas on the national forests surrounding their base.
Compensation
- $10.10/hour
- Housing available

Expected Responsibilities
- Work effectively with fellow crew members under the direction of crew leaders to complete assigned stewardship projects
- Maintaining high standard levels for project completion
- Exemplifying the SAWS mission and vision
- Assisting in developing and maintaining strong, positive relationships with US Forest Service personnel, partner organization staff, and partner organization volunteers
- Creating media (blogs, photography, video, etc.) to share for reporting and documentation
- Practicing Leave No Trace principals on project sites and in camp
- Following and practicing SAWS organizational policies on project sites and in camp
- Maintaining a fun, safe, and positive working environment

Required Skills
- Enthusiasm for the mission and work of SAWS
- Ability to complete strenuous physical tasks, including traveling on foot over rough terrain for up to 10 miles per day while carrying 50 lbs. or more
- Ability to live and work in a remote and primitive setting with diverse groups of people

2015 Seasonal Time Frame
- Wilderness Skills Institute: May 18-29, 2015
- Crew Orientation: June 1-3, 2015
- Field Season: June 4-August 7, 2015

To Apply
If you are interested in applying for the Crew Member position, please send a resume and cover letter to saws@trailcrews.org with the subject line “2015 Seasonal Crew Member Application”. Questions regarding the application and application process may be submitted via email to saws@trailcrews.org. Review of applicants will begin in mid-February.

About Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards
Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) was created in 2010 to steward protected public lands in the national forests of the Southern Appalachian region, which includes areas in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. The geographic footprint of SAWS includes 45 wilderness areas in 5 national forests, as well as several wilderness study and inventoried roadless areas. SAWS serves as a resource for the federal agencies, supplementing existing stewardship efforts and providing support where there are none. Our organization focuses on engaging local communities across our landscape in active volunteerism and developing the next generation of public lands stewards. SAWS is an equal opportunity employer.