



San Juan Mountains Association

Forest Ambassadors

The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is hiring a crew of Forest Ambassadors to work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to educate visitors on forest health, “Leave No Trace” practices, conduct light trail work, track visitor numbers, and monitor forest conditions throughout the San Juan National Forest.

Field Office: Durango, CO

Project locations: San Juan National Forest, Uncompahgre National Forest

Season: Mid-May through early September, extension possible

Position Summary

SJMA is recruiting a crew of skilled and passionate public lands ambassadors who can operate independently across the San Juan National Forest (often at high elevation) to make public contacts, develop interpretive programming, conduct routine trail maintenance, help implement volunteer stewardship projects, and conduct environmental monitoring. This is a unique opportunity for applicants with prior ranger, trail crew, or youth corps experience to help protect some of Colorado’s most iconic locations while taking the next step towards a career in public lands management. The San Juan Forest Ambassadors will conduct a variety of projects under the supervision of a field manager. The crew will largely work individually and be split into teams of 2-4 as necessary to help provide an educational presence and conduct a variety of stewardship activities. Primary duties will focus on public outreach, light trail upkeep, and program development. Ambassadors will receive a broad spectrum of relevant training and will end the season with a wide range of stewardship experience. This is a life-changing opportunity for the right applicant who will make an immediate impact on the land and build lifelong memories in some of Colorado’s most spectacular landscapes.





San Juan Mountains Association

Work Environment

Work is performed primarily in the field, often in remote locations for multiple days at a time. Positions will be Full (40 Hours/week) or Part-time (15-25 hours/week) during the field season (May – September) and will generally follow a mostly Friday-Monday schedule. During that time, overnight camping/backpacking travel may be required. Light office duties will be performed at assigned work locations. Safety equipment is required when using tools, and will be provided in accordance with applicable USFS job hazard analyses. Field work includes risk of injury from falls, strains, and insect bites, and includes exposure to inclement weather.

Summary of Essential Job Functions

- Must be able to carry a pack and hike extensively through the high country
- Travel to and work in remote settings throughout San Juan National Forest
- Make public contacts, provide visitor services, and develop public lands education
- Maintain organized and complete records
- Light trail work including drain clearing, corridor maintenance, campsite clean up, and reporting trail conditions
- Represent SJMA and U.S. Forest Service in appropriate uniform and professional behavior
- Operate a data collection device to collect consistent and accurate natural resource data
- Maintain a positive attitude while working in inclement weather at high elevations (8,000-13,000 ft)
- Support other SJMA teams and projects as assigned

Knowledge/Abilities

- Prior youth corps, trail crew, or ranger experience preferred
- Demonstrated outdoor leadership experience
- Knowledge of public lands principles, concepts, policies
- Backpacking, camping, hiking experience
- Ability to work under challenging physical conditions
- Experience leading educational programming highly desirable
- Valid state-issued Driver's License and personal reliable transportation - Ambassadors are responsible for commuting to trailheads up to 100 miles from field office
- Positive attitude!



San Juan Mountains Association

Compensation

- \$15 per hour
- Travel stipend
- One hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked
- End-of-season bonus awarded to ambassadors who complete a full field season
- Pro deals on select outdoor gear
- Uniform hat/shirt/rain jacket provided, must wear long hiking pants and close-toed shoes

COVID-19 Policies

Employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If selected, the applicant must submit proof of vaccination.

To apply, email a resume, cover letter, and references to jobs@sjma.org

