

FOREST AMBASSADOR

Position Description

JOB SUMMARY: Do you love working outdoors and interacting with the public? The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is recruiting a cadre of Forest Ambassadors to work at trailheads and on trails within the San Juan National Forest, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management Silverton Field Office. The Forest Ambassador program is made possible through partnership between SJMA, area National Forests, BLM, the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, and the Southwest Colorado Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. SJMA Forest Ambassadors rotate throughout recreation hotspots and are responsible for making public education contacts, conducting light trail maintenance, monitoring/collecting recreation and wilderness impact data, and working with volunteers. Forest Ambassadors conduct a variety of projects under the supervision of the Stewardship Program Manager. Forest Ambassadors often work independently or with volunteers, and may be split into teams of 2-4 as necessary to conduct a variety of stewardship activities.

LOCATION

SJMA is housed in the San Juan Public Lands Center In Durango, Colorado, and this position will be primarily field based, often rotating through a variety of remote locations.

HOURS and SEASON:

This is a seasonal, non-exempt position offered either full-time (40 Hours/week), or part-time (20-30 hours/week). SJMA's Forest Ambassador season runs from mid May – mid September and will generally follow a four-days on, three-days off work schedule, with crews working 10-hour days, typically over weekends (i.e Fri-Mon or Thu- Sun). During that time, overnight travel and camping may be required. A select number of these positions may be extended based on funding and candidate interest/availability.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Effectively represent SJMA to the public and partner organizations
- Proactively pursue visitor engagement through educational tabling at trailheads, hiking on trail and (at times) area visitor centers.
- Educate the public on Leave No Trace, wildfire safety, forest restoration activities
- Utilize hand tools to conduct light trail maintenance (tread, drainage, downed trees, corridor clearing) and forest clean up (campsites, fire rings, and trailheads)
- Collect visitor information data, and track accomplishments
- Complete Wilderness Solitude Monitoring
- Exude positivity and responsible recreation messaging

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Public speaking, interpretive/naturalist experience
- Knowledge of Leave No Trace principles, fire safety, forest health

- Demonstrated ability to engage the public
- Excellent communication skills
- Map reading, trail navigation
- Backpacking, hiking experience
- Solid decision making and risk management skills
- Data collection with apps/ platforms (i.e. Survey 123)
- Trail work and natural resource management experience are a plus

COMPENSATION:

- \$18.00- 20.00 per hour DOE
- Travel reimbursement for personal vehicle use to work sites
- Uniform, rain jacket
- Training- Wilderness First Aid, Leave No Trace.
- End-of-season bonus awarded to crew members who complete a full field season
- SJMA offers a Simple IRA plan with a 3% match, and 1 hour of sick time per 30 hours worked, per Colorado law.

TO APPLY: email a cover letter and resume in one pdf file with title " Forest Ambassador Application" to jobs@sjma.org by April 1, 2023