



San Juan Mountains Association

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Wilderness Stewardship Crew Leader Job Announcement

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1988, the San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) is a public lands conservation non-profit in partnership with the San Juan National Forest, Rio Grande National Forest, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other agencies providing outreach, education and stewardship throughout SW Colorado.

JOB SUMMARY

Do you love backpacking and excel in managing a team on projects in the backcountry? The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) Wilderness Stewardship Crew, in partnership with the US Forest Service, operates as a team in rugged, remote, and beautiful backcountry wilderness areas in Southwest Colorado. This position entails leading and managing a three-person crew to complete a variety of projects in remote backcountry locations. The position requires backpacking long distances with tools and equipment to high elevation Wilderness areas. Projects include a mix of intensive trail clearing (log-out) with cross cut saws, public education and engagement, and protocol-based monitoring of wilderness characteristics. The Crew Leader, under the direct supervision of the Stewardship Program Manager, is responsible for communication and coordination with SJMA and USFS staff to plan and implement projects, as well as ensuring the safety and productivity of the team.

LOCATION

SJMA is housed in the San Juan National Forest Headquarters in Durango, Colorado. This position will be primarily field based. Work is performed in remote backcountry locations (i.e. Weminuche Wilderness) for multiple days at a time.

HOURS and SEASON

This is a seasonal full-time, 40 hours per week position (non-exempt) from mid May to mid August. The Crew Leader will start a week earlier than the crew to be onboarded and ready to help with training. Following training, SJMA's field season runs from early June – mid August and will generally follow a four-days on, three-days off work schedule, with crews working 10-hour days, camping in backcountry areas. A limited number of eight-day hitches may be required to access remote project locations.

General Duties

The Crew Leader is responsible for implementing all aspects of SJMA's Wilderness Stewardship Crew season, including:

- Coordinate with SJMA and USFS staff to implement projects.
- Complete and oversee Wilderness characteristic monitoring activities and data collection.
- Ensure crew safety through effective mentorship, Emergency Response Planning.
- Enforce safety protocols and use of Personal Protective Equipment while on duty
- Lead goal setting and accomplishment tracking for the Wilderness Crew
- Improve trail access in Wilderness areas through log removal with crosscut saws, axes.

Ensure equipment is maintained and in good working order throughout the season and report any broken or dull equipment that needs to be replaced.

- Mentor crew in visitor engagement to increase public knowledge of Leave No Trace, Wilderness etiquette, and safety.
- Navigate to backcountry worksites and campsites via backpacking.
- Positively promote the crew experience to ensure effective team performance during potentially stressful and difficult conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Demonstrated leadership of team-based outdoor experiences.
- Extensive backpacking and backcountry camping experience is a must.
- Physical fitness - ability to lift and carry 50-75lb, and backpack up to 12 miles/day.
- Demonstrated project management and training of others.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Composure to manage others during strenuous physical activity in all types of weather and at high elevations.
- Knowledge of Wilderness principles, concepts, and policies.
- Map and compass, backcountry navigation, and travel.
- Tool use and safety (crosscut saw experience/certification a plus).
- Effective team leadership including mentoring others.
- Data collection, compilation, and reporting.
- Valid driver's license, clean driving record, reliable transportation.

COMPENSATION:

- \$19.00- \$21.00 per hour DOE.
- Mileage reimbursement for personal vehicle use to work sites.
- 2 Uniform shirts, rain jacket, hat(s), and name tag provided.
- Training included: Wilderness First Aid, Crosscut Saw, Leave No Trace.
- End-of-season bonus awarded to crew leaders who complete the 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

Those interested in the position are asked to submit a resume and cover letter demonstrating their qualifications and interest in the position. The cover letter should succinctly describe the applicant's goals, suitability for the position, and other pertinent facts that may not appear in the resume. Deadline for Applications is **March 1st**. We will review applications on a rolling basis so candidates are encouraged to apply early

No phone calls please. SJMA is an equal opportunity employer. Please send resume and cover letter to jobs@sjma.org with the heading **Wilderness Crew Leader Application**. All offers of employment will be subject to satisfactory completion of a background check.