



**CONSERVATION
LEGACY**



Community Volunteer Ambassador – Acadia National Park

Location: Winter Harbor, Maine

Position Details:

Stewards Individual Placements, a program of Conservation Legacy, provides individuals with service and career opportunities to strengthen communities and preserve our natural resources. The Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA) Program combines the strength of a national leader in conservation service with the National Park Service to train a diverse group of emerging leaders to assist park units in building lasting connections to communities.

At the beginning of the internship, the supervisors will work with the intern to develop a mentorship and leadership development plan that focuses on the intern's career and professional development goals. The intern will regularly interact with staff from multiple divisions (e.g., Research Learning Center, Volunteers, Resource Management, Visitor Education and Engagement, Trails) and with partner organizations (e.g., Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute). This will allow daily opportunities to learn through face-to-face interactions. The intern will attend all employee training on safety, orientation to Acadia, operational leadership, and other topics as applicable.

Acadia National Park is seeing the effects of climate change on its resources and is taking action to understand and manage those changes. The CVA will be a part of the climate-smart, learning-based restoration efforts going on at the park. The CVA will work with staff, interns, and volunteers to remove invasive species, participate in native plantings, and monitor growth and changes both at wetland sites and summit locations. This work will engage the CVA in interdisciplinary work with multiple organizations (e.g., Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute). Not only will the CVA have hands-on experience with restoration projects, but they will be a part of meetings and learning sessions in which climate change and NPS Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) approaches to climate adaptation are discussed.

This knowledge will be used to engage, interact with, and educate the public about the cutting-edge research and management taking place in Acadia. The CVA will participate in talks and events geared toward local residents where they will be encouraged to participate in active restoration through volunteer efforts or opportunities such as Homegrown National Park, an effort to encourage individuals to remove invasive species and use native plants in their own outdoor spaces. The CVA will also work to expand upon existing community partnerships related to climate change, strengthening partnerships with A Climate to Thrive, Mount Desert Island High School Eco Team, Town of Mount Desert Sustainability Committee, and the Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Task Force. It is important to have two-way conversations about climate-smart restoration work that is currently happening in the park and to think about ways to collaborate on mutual goals with local partners; the CVA volunteer assisting us in achieving these objectives.

Site Description

Acadia National Park is mostly located on Mount Desert Island, the largest island off the coast of Maine. Acadia National Park protects the natural beauty of the highest rocky headlands along the Atlantic coastline of the United States, an abundance of habitats, and a rich cultural heritage. At 4 million visits a year, it's one of the top 10 most-visited national parks in the United States. Visitors enjoy 27 miles of historic motor roads, 158 miles of hiking trails, and 45 miles of carriage roads.

Acadia National Park has a diverse volunteer program that works closely with park partners, Friends of Acadia, Schoodic Institute, and Mount Desert Island Search and Rescue. In partnership with Friends of Acadia, we have a robust trails and carriage road maintenance drop-in program, which runs three days a week, six



CONSERVATION LEGACY



months a year; in addition, this program supports and facilitates service groups in the park. In partnership with Friends of Acadia, there is also the Wild Gardens of Acadia and the Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer programs (trail grooming for winter recreation). Partnered with Schoodic Institute, volunteer programs include Visitor Contact Assistants, Citizen Scientists, Bird Migration, and the Hawk Watch Program. An essential partnership with MDI Search and Rescue assists the park with visitor accidents and carry-out situations. In addition, there are Campground Hosts, Bass Harbor Head Light volunteers, Waldron's Warriors (trail adoption with maintenance and visitor assistant duties), Visitor Center, Interpretation, Education, and Administrative Volunteers, and many more. Acadia National Park also hosts large events such as Take Pride in Acadia Day, and a new event, Save Our Summits, a soil restoration event initiated this year.

Position Responsibilities:

- Work with an interdisciplinary team
- Work with partners and staff on existing volunteer opportunities (e.g., Save our Summits, mini-bioblitzes)
- Review and develop new volunteer opportunities (e.g., Homegrown National Parks)
- Identify and participate in public outreach events (e.g., Earth Day, Pride, Jackson Lab, National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day)
- Present restoration projects to local audiences (e.g., library talks, community outreach)
- Work with partner organizations on collaborative projects
- Meet with local residents about volunteer and stewardship opportunities
- Develop and foster partnership opportunities (e.g., A Climate to Thrive, Mount Desert Island High School Eco Team, Town of Mount Desert Sustainability Committee, and the Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Task Force)
- Develop a plan to sustain the volunteer program related to climate-smart restoration

CVA Minimum Requirements:

- 2 years of college or relevant experience
- Effective communication skills
- Good work ethic and ability to self-start
- Strong computer skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Participate in the CVA National Early Service Training in late March/early April 2024 (date TBD)
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Be 18-30 years old at time of service (veterans up to 35 years old)
- High School Diploma/GED
- Pass fingerprint-based FBI, state criminal, and a national sex offender checks.
- Be able to provide proof of a driver's license and complete a MVR check
- Must be over 21 years old or have had license for at least 3 years to be insured in this position

Preferred Qualifications:

- Public speaking
- Experience engaging the general public through outreach events or talks
- Experience working with volunteers
- Ability to hike to restoration sites in wetlands or on mountain summits
- Ability to work in an outdoor setting for long periods of time



**CONSERVATION
LEGACY**



Additional Information:

Perhaps the most unique aspect of this position is the opportunity it provides the CVA to work with a variety of divisions within Acadia National Park, volunteer groups, and multiple partner organizations and their governing boards (e.g., Friends of Acadia, Schoodic Institute). The CVA will be immersed in a multiorganizational, learning-based, climate-smart restoration project while learning about and participating in the coordination of these organizations. Due to the nature of these projects and associated outreach opportunities, occasionally the CVA may be required to work evenings and weekends.

Acadia National Park is a unique place whose landscape consists of forests, meadows, wetlands, rocky beaches, and granite peaks. Its location is remote and while there is public transportation during the peak season, it is not available year-round and therefore, a license and car is required of the CVA.

Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities offer a multitude of year-round, outdoor recreation opportunities.

Housing includes a private bedroom in a furnished apartment on the NPS Research Learning Center and Schoodic Institute campus on the Schoodic Peninsula. The apartment will be shared with one or more other interns and includes a full kitchen (with dishes, pans, etc.), full bathroom, and living room. The campus has wireless internet, facilities for laundry, and is within easy walking distance of the ocean and trails. The intern should bring personal items, including toiletries, laundry supplies, bedding, and linens. A bicycle is also helpful, as much of the Schoodic Peninsula, including Winter Harbor and park multi-use trails, are accessible by bicycle. Getting to most off-campus services requires a car.

Benefits:

- **\$600/week living stipend.**
- Housing provided.
- Limited health care/childcare benefits
- The position is eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award \$6,895.00 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of the program
- \$1,200 in professional development funds for training, networking, conferences, and/or travel.
- Networking opportunities within the National Park Service and partnering organizations
- Public Land Corps Hiring Authority
- Week-long in-person training at NPS site with travel/meal expenses covered.

How to Apply

Please visit [Community Volunteer Ambassador \(cvainternships.org\)](https://cvainternships.org) to review "Member Positions" by region and find instructions on how to apply.

The CVA position will start on **Monday, January 22nd, 2024**, and run for 48 weeks until Friday, December 20th, 2024. Applicants will need to apply here: <https://form.jotform.com/StewardsIPP/cva-member-application-winter-2024>. Application form requires a resume, cover letter, professional references.

Please ensure your cover letter addresses how your experience aligns with the CVA program, your experience working with diverse populations, and position details for this park/position. You may submit one application for multiple positions by selecting all sites you are interested in.

Applications Deadline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. First review will occur in early November. Final deadline is

Updated 10/2/2023



**CONSERVATION
LEGACY**



Sunday, December 10th, 2023.

For Application Questions:

Please contact Geoff Elliot, Program Director at gelliot@conservationlegacy.org

Conservation Legacy is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to hiring a breadth of diverse professionals and encourage members of diverse groups to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, political affiliation, protected veteran status, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. We also consider qualified applicants regardless of criminal histories, consistent with legal requirements. If you need assistance and/or a reasonable accommodation due to a disability during application or recruiting process, please send a request to the hiring manager.