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Champlain Area Trails

Job Description: Summer Trail Steward

Background:

Champlain Area Trails (CATS) began in 2007 when its founders acted on a long-held dream of establishing a network of hiking/skiing trails in the Champlain Valley. In 2009 CATS became a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with the mission to *creat hiking and skiing trails that link New York's Champlain Valley's communities, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality*. CATS is also a land trust working to *protect natural communities, farmland, clean water, and scenic vistas*.

We have developed 36 trails totaling more than 54 miles, and have protected a total of 892 acres through five conservation easements totaling 784 acres and the acquisition of three parcels of land totaling 108 acres. We hold regular volunteer trail projects, public hikes, and outdoor education outings.

Position Details:

Summary of Responsibilities: The Summer Trail Steward will maintain and create hiking/skiing trails, help manage CATS's fee properties, work with volunteers, participate in outdoor education, interact with landowners, and take part in community affairs. He/she will be supervised by the Stewardship Director. This is a full-time, seasonal (2-4 month) position.

Trails:

- Maintain hiking/skiing trails – mow grass and vegetation where trails go through fields and some forests, install and replace trail markers and signs, build gates, bridges, and boardwalks.
- Create new trails.
- Work with, and sometimes supervise volunteers and work crews on trail projects.

Land and Easement Management

- Assist with managing properties – mark property boundaries, inspect properties.
- Assist with development of management plans.

Outreach and Outdoor Education:

- Participate in public hikes and outdoor education outings.
- Distribute CATS Trail Map at designated locations (businesses, kiosks, tourist sites)

Qualifications/Preferences:

- Trail and land management skills (orienting, carpentry, working the land, planning, mapping).
- Ability to use self-prepared, walk-behind brush more and hand and power tools.
- Ability to work independently and with a team.
- Able to read and interpret topographical maps.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- A commitment to NY's Champlain Valley and interest in land conservation and management.
- Professional attitude and demeanor, highly motivated and responsible.
- Ability to remain flexible under pressure.
- Able to work some weekends.
- Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and a good driving record. Use of a truck would be helpful
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and social media helpful but not required.

Salary and Benefits:

- Salary: \$12-\$14/hour commensurate with experience.
- Health insurance: None at this time.
- Retirement: None at this time.
- Vacation and Sick Days – As noted in CATS Personnel Policy.

To Apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and three references to info@champlainareatrails.com or mail to: Champlain Area Trails, P.O. Box 193, Westport, NY 12993.