

Job Description

Student Employment Offices

College of Saint Benedict Saint John's University

Job Title: Student Land Manager in the Abbey Arboretum

Department/Agency: Saint John's Outdoor University

Wage: Level 1

Categories: Community Service

Length of Position: 13 weeks (520 hours) to be worked between May—August

Function/Description of the Position: Assist in the upkeep (excluding inner campus) of more than 2,500 acres of Saint John's Abbey Arboretum. Saint John's Outdoor University provides educational opportunities to thousands of preK-12 students, CSB/SJU students, and local community members each year. Maintaining a healthy ecosystem and physical infrastructure for the educational opportunities is vital.

This position helps the Abbey Arboretum and Outdoor University care for the wildlife habitat and ecosystems of the forest, wetlands, prairies, and lakes. This can include removing invasive species, prescribed burning, constructing/maintaining trails and bridges, moving rock, cutting, planting trees, and cutting, splitting, and stacking firewood. It will involve exposure to the elements, hazards, and beauty of the natural world.

It is possible that the employee may be assigned to focus on a single or small number of tasks (like invasive weed control or trail maintenance) for the majority of the work schedule.

The position offers the student valuable knowledge about the environment, creative thinking opportunities, and practical field experience. Ultimately, the position requires respect for the natural world that must be incorporated into the work.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Maintain trails and bridges using power equipment and hand tools.
- Use pesticides, hand tools, and power equipment to remove invasive species like European Buckthorn and lead volunteers in this effort.
- Cut and deliver firewood for visiting groups and the maple syrup educational program.
- Treat tree seedlings to prevent deer damage and lead volunteers in this effort.
- Install deer fencing.
- Collect acorns for seed and lead volunteers in this effort.
- Assist with tree planting; Assist with prescribed burning;
- Use GPS recorders to map trails and projects.

Minimum Qualifications to perform the duties of the position:

- Must be reliable, trustworthy, and able to work independently as well as with others.
- Must be able to work outside in conditions that will include insects (ticks, mosquitoes, flies, etc.), heat, rain, and other adverse conditions.
- Must be familiar with the operation of pickup trucks, tractors, lawn mowers, weed whips, chain-saws, shovels, and rakes. A valid driver's license is required in the course of completion of regular duties.
- Should be in generally good health and be capable of periods of prolonged walking and exposure to the outdoors.
- Must be able to lift 50 pounds on a regular basis and able to lift up to 75 pounds on occasion.
- Should appreciate and have a strong desire to learn more about the natural environment.
- Must be 18 years or older to operate machinery (chain-saw, tractors, mowers, etc.)
- Must personally provide sturdy work boots, leather gloves, water bottles, and outdoor appropriate clothing. All other tools and safety gear, including insect repellent, will be provided.

- *Student eligibility for Federal funds is preferred* (contact the Financial Aid Office to determine your eligibility).

Work Schedule:

40 hours a week (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with an option for other schedules.)

Flexibility will be provided for start and end dates and for students to take unpaid time off for a summer vacation or long weekends.

A 30 minute unpaid break is provided at noon and the employee will return to campus. A paid 15 minute break is provided in the morning and afternoon, but will often be taken at the field site and the timing will be based on a practical break in the work being done.

Contact Person:

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