

## **Van Sinderen Conservation Internship**

**Reports to:** Mike Giapponi, Trails & Preserve Coordinator

### **About Steep Rock Association:**

Steep Rock Association is a land trust whose mission is to conserve ecologically and historically significant landscapes in and around Washington, CT and the Shepaug River Valley and to enhance the community's connection with nature.

In pursuing its mission, Steep Rock Association will:

- Use best management practices to maintain and manage the lands and improvements entrusted to it for passive recreation, the protection of native flora and fauna, and to support sustainable agriculture;
- Strive to raise environmental consciousness by enhancing the community's knowledge and appreciation of nature and its awareness of Steep Rock's on-going contributions to the culture and history of the Town of Washington; and
- Pursue land-based non-commercial activities that benefit both Steep Rock and the community.

**Overview:** The Van Sinderen Conservation Intern gains hands-on, real world experiences through outdoor trail & recreational work, biodiversity studies, and outreach activities, including interacting with visitors/hikers as a trail ambassador.

### **Expectations:**

- Ability to work both independently and as a member of a small team
- Keep a positive attitude, have an eagerness to learn and a willingness to do one's best
- Demonstrate professionalism at all times: dress, communication and behavior
- Maintain accountability, responsibility, and respectfulness in one's work, including daily logistics (start and end work on time, etc.) and tasks
- Develop learning goals and create an approved product (presentation, article, photo journey, etc.) at internship's end which reflects upon experience and knowledge gained
- Follow all safety guidelines and work habits

### **Specific tasks:**

- Perform land and river stewardship projects, such as wildlife habitat improvement, stream surveys, invasive species removal, biodiversity studies, etc.
- Carry out recreational stewardship activities (trail building/maintenance, water control efforts, weed whacking, pruning, blazing, sign posting, campsite prep & firewood cutting/stacking/delivering, preserve boundary marking, etc.)
- Serve as an outreach trail ambassador to visitors/hikers to facilitate a positive trail experience
- Collect and analyze data on visitors/hikers
- Assist with outreach programming and events as needed
- Conceptualize and carry out a capstone project. Example projects include: telemetry studies of box turtles, interpretive sign design and creation, and records research and organization.
- Other tasks & projects as determined

### **Qualifications:**

- Interest in protecting and improving the quality of the outdoors and natural world for both human and natural communities
- Capacity to work outdoors in myriad weather and insect conditions (precipitation, heat, cold, ticks, mosquitoes, etc.) while performing physical labor and carrying/moving/lifting heavy objects
- Minimum of one (1) year of college OR one year of related work experience
- Use of personal vehicle for transportation amongst preserves and a valid Driver's License

- Experience in conservation, carpentry, landscaping/gardening, or farm/woods work a plus
- Enthusiasm for SRA's conservation mission
- Good interpersonal & communication skills
- Ability to work evenings and some weekends

**Working with Steep Rock Association:**

Compensation of minimum hourly wage (\$10.10/hr), up to 160 hours for the summer (average of 20/hrs week). Start and end times are flexible to accommodate school schedules.

Steep Rock Association (SRA) has a collegial and team-oriented work environment. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and act in accordance with laws applicable to employment practices.