

Van Sinderen Conservation Internship: Steep Rock Association

"It was one of the most exciting, rewarding, and meaningful positions that I have held. From pruning trails, to assisting at volunteer events, to working on a capstone project, I was given the chance to help keep our beautiful forests, fields, and streams accessible to the public and responsibly managed." (2020 VS Intern)

Reports to: Mike Giapponi, Trails & Preserves Manager

About Steep Rock Association: Steep Rock Association is a nationally accredited land trust whose mission is to conserve ecologically and historically significant landscapes and riparian corridors in and around Washington, CT and to enhance the community's connection to nature through outreach, education, and passive recreation.

Overview: Two paid, part-time, Van Sinderen Conservation Internships are available for college students to gain hands-on, real world experiences through outdoor trail & recreational work, biodiversity studies, and outreach activities, including interacting with visitors/hikers as a trail ambassador. Conservation Interns spend most of their time in the field, working independently and with SRA staff to complete a wide variety of projects. In addition, interns will complete a capstone conservation project and share his/her experience via a short article or photographic exhibit at end of summer.

Expectations:

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

Specific tasks:

- Perform land and river stewardship projects, such as wildlife habitat improvements, stream surveys, invasive species removal, biodiversity studies, etc.
- Carry out recreational stewardship activities, such as trail building/maintenance, campsite maintenance, preserve boundary marking, etc.
- Perform grounds maintenance activities, such as lawn mowing, garden weeding, kiosk updating, etc.
- Serve as an outreach trail ambassador to visitors/hikers to facilitate a positive trail experience
- Assist with outreach programming, events, and visitor surveys as needed
- Administrative work, research land records, organize land preservation files per national standards, etc.
- Conceptualize and carry out a research-based capstone project
- Other tasks & projects as determined

Qualifications:

- Interest in protecting and improving the environment for both human and natural communities
- Capacity to work outdoors in myriad weather and insect conditions (precipitation, heat, cold, ticks, etc.)
- Must be able to regularly lift/carry 50 lbs.
- 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. Mileage is reimbursed at Federal rate (\$0.56/mile).
- Experience in conservation, carpentry, landscaping/gardening, or farm/forestry work a plus
- Enthusiasm for SRA's conservation mission
- Good interpersonal & communication skills
- Ability to work evenings and some weekends

Hours/Compensation: Compensation at minimum hourly wage (\$12/hr), up to 160 hours for the summer (average of 20/hrs week). Start and end times are flexible to accommodate college dates.

To Apply: Submit cover letter expressing interest in position and resume/cv to info@steeprocksoc.org.

Working with Steep Rock Association:

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. For more information on Steep Rock Association, please visit www.steeptrockassoc.org.