



Seasonal Land Steward - Grant Position

Application Deadline: March 15th, 2024

Employment Dates: April 2024 for 29 weeks (potential seasonal employment for 2 years)

Time Requirement: 25 hours/ week - some variation of work schedule each week based on weather conditions

Compensation: \$17/hr

The Nature Institute is a private non-profit conservation organization that fosters an awareness and appreciation for the natural world through preservation, restoration, and education. The Nature Institute manages nearly 500 acres along the Mississippi River bluffs in Godfrey, IL. This property includes a variety of natural communities protecting a diverse population of plants and animals.

Position Description:

This seasonal Land Steward performs duties related to prairie upkeep and restoration in concordance with the Natural Areas Stewardship Grant received by TNI. This grant position prioritizes work on 60 acres of prairie and adjoining wood lines on the property. The work will focus on enhancing existing prairie habitat for our native wildlife. Duties include, but are not limited to herbicide application, tree removal, plant identification, planting, seed collection, and assisting with controlled burns. This position reports to and works closely with the Director of Stewardship and will follow policies set forth by the Board of Directors and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. This position will require occasionally variable hours dependent on weather conditions. This is an ideal opportunity for a college student interested in ecology and land restoration. Some background in native restoration is preferred.

Experience:

- Hands-on plant identification, small tool/equipment operation, experience with a chainsaw, and ecological restoration activity exposure
- Ability to work outdoors under adverse weather conditions
- Strong oral communication skills
- Enthusiasm, strong work ethic, courteous and positive attitude, team player mentality
- Participation in controlled burns a plus
- Must be 18 or older

Essential Duties:

- Operate chainsaws and other small power tools including mowers, brush cutters, hedge trimmers, weed whackers, and water pumps, and use herbicide sprayers, backpack water tanks, and hand tools
- Execute habitat management and habitat project plans under the supervision of the Director of Stewardship. Tasks include cutting, spraying herbicide, brush hogging, and prescribed burning. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission guidelines will be used as a guide to perform habitat management tasks
- Assist Director of Stewardship with supervising volunteers
- Maintain, repair, and improve tools and equipment. Tasks include performing oil changes, greasing, cleaning, and other tasks as they arise
- Maintain, repair, and improve trails. Tasks include clearing downed trees and limbs, grading and repairing uneven trails, removing trash, and other tasks as they arise
- Collect, clean, and disperse native seed
- Help maintain a native seed nursery and greenhouse
- Prepare burn breaks and participate in prescribed burns
- Monitor property boundaries and access points for trespassing and/or undesirable uses.
- Follow safe working practices and make appropriate use of related safety equipment, as required

The above list of essential duties is not exhaustive. The seasonal land steward will be expected to perform other tasks not on the list as they arise.

Apply at www.thenatureinstitute.org/now-hiring