



Summer Land Management Internship

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (the Conservancy) is a regional, non-profit land trust based in La Crosse, WI that has permanently conserved over 25,000 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, and streams in southwestern Wisconsin. The Conservancy owns and manages 26 nature preserves totaling more than 5,000 acres and also works with private landowners and local communities on voluntary conservation projects and environmental education in nine counties along or near the Mississippi River.

Summary of Position: We are hiring 6 paid Land Management Interns who will assist with habitat management and restoration of native prairie, forest, oak savanna, and wetland habitat on Conservancy-protected lands throughout southwest Wisconsin. Managing the ecological health of the natural communities throughout the Mississippi River Valley is rewarding hard work. Interns may gain skills and expertise in aspects of wildlife habitat management, including species identification, timber stand improvement, oak savanna, forest, and prairie restoration, invasive species control, and trail maintenance through the use of chainsaws, brushsaws, herbicide applicators, mowers, UTV's and other power tools.

Duties include equipment maintenance, invasive species control, use of herbicides, tree and brush removal, prairie restoration, boundary posting, supervising school and volunteer groups, and more. Sites and projects will be physically demanding and provide excellent hands-on experience in many facets of land management. These positions will be approximately 95% field work and 5% office/shop work. The work schedule may include occasional evenings or weekend work. Chainsaw and plant identification experience preferred. A covid-19 vaccination is a requirement of employment.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Working outdoors in adverse conditions (heat/cold, biting insects, etc.)
- Sincere interest in preserving southwest Wisconsin's ecosystems
- Strong work ethic & positive attitude
- Physically fit & able to work on steep, rugged terrain for long blocks of time on a daily basis
- Plant and tree identification
- Ability to follow directions and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Possess a valid driver's license and working vehicle
- Willingness to safely use herbicides, chainsaws and other power equipment

Details:

Land Management Interns will work primarily with Land Manager Levi Plath, the Conservancy's Restoration Coordinator, and crew leaders throughout the course of the summer. The internship runs from May 20th until August 30th. The successful candidates will work approximately **30 hours/week** dependent on weather conditions and land management priorities and will be paid **\$15/hr**. **Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.**

How to Apply:

Please submit a resume, a brief (one page) cover letter including where/how you first found out about this position, and a list of 3 references in one PDF to Land Manager, Levi Plath at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org.

For more information contact Levi Plath at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org or 608-784-3606 ext. 5