



# Northern Forest Canoe Trail Stewardship Internship Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the goals of the NFCT Stewardship Internship?**

The Stewardship Internship has three primary goals:

- To complete priority trail maintenance and campsite development work along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- To provide interns with experiences and relationships that further their skills in and knowledge about recreation management.
- To help develop strong leadership and teamwork skills

### **What are the dates of the Stewardship Internship?**

The Stewardship Intern season will run from June 13th– August 19th, 2016.

### **Is a stipend provided?**

Yes, for those interns on the Roving Stewardship Crew a \$2,500 stipend is provided toward living expenses during the internship. This works out to \$250 per week. You can expect to spend \$50 per week for food costs. The Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) and Flagstaff-Bow Loop Interns will receive \$300 per week in stipend because they will have to spend more on food expenses. Interns will be provided food during training weeks and when there is a Waterway Work Trip (WWT). The Roving Crew will have a minimum of 4 WWTs during the course of the season. The AWW and Flagstaff Bow-Loop Crews will each have two WWTs. WWTs run from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. For time spent working outside of the WWTs interns will work together to develop a group menu. Interns will be paid every two weeks. We prefer to set up direct deposit, and this can be very helpful for the interns as well as sometimes payday will line up with a period of time when you are in the field.

### **Is training provided?**

All NFCT interns will train together the first week of the program. The first week is focused on soft skills training covering topics like group dynamics, leadership, Leave No Trace, paddle skills, first-aid refresher, and NFCT protocol. The Roving Crew and the AWW crew will continue training together for two more weeks; the second week will focus on working with rock to build trail structures and the third week will be devoted to working with lumber. The Flagstaff-Bow Loop Crew will spend the second week of the program being trained in the field learning how to maintain campsites and getting familiar with the resources associated with Flagstaff Lake and the Bow Loop Trail.

### **Do I need to be certified in Wilderness First Aid to be an NFCT intern?**

Yes, this is a minimum requirement. If you are not currently certified we can help you find a training course.

**Do I need experience paddling?**

No, although it helps. We will be providing basic flat and fastwater training in the first week with ample time to practice your skills during the season. Not all projects will require the need to paddle to the site. Some locations will be accessible by vehicle. Each season is different and the balance between paddle access and vehicle access projects occurs in varying ratios.

**Do I need to be an experienced camper?**

An introductory knowledge of low impact and Leave No Trace camping is very helpful in allowing us to know that you will be comfortable in the settings we will be working and living in during the course of the internship. If you do not have experience camping, be prepared to explain why you know you will be comfortable in this type of living environment.

**Can I get academic credit for the internship?**

Yes, if your school allows it. You will need to establish this with your school prior to the start of the internship. We will provide the documentation needed to process your work for credit.

**Is the work schedule full-time or part-time? What are the hours?**

Stewardship interns will work full-time (40 hours/week), but the schedule will vary from day-to-day and week-to-week depending on the project at hand. Some days you may work with a group of volunteers improving a paddler access; another day you may spend part of a day with a mentor in your area of interest or traveling to another work site. You will play a key role in preparing for and leading a series of volunteer Waterway Work Trips (WWT) throughout the summer. Schedule may be Monday to Friday or Wednesday to Sunday depending on WWT Schedule.

**What do we do outside of the work day?**

Typically we will be working in backwoods environments across the Northern Forest. Most interns will enjoy their surroundings after the work day and participate in the group camping experience. You are responsible for your two days off per week. You can access NFCT resources if you need help finding a place to stay and can use NFCT equipment if you would like continue camping out or would like to paddle along the Trail.

**Where is the internship located?**

The Roving Stewardship Internship will take place in each of the four states and one province through which the Trail flows. Interns will travel together as a team to a variety of sections of the Trail, and will be working independently, in small groups, and with volunteers. Some projects will take place over weekends.

The AWW Crew will be focused on the work in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, roughly the most easterly 90-miles of the NFCT. Work projects will take place at Lock Dam, Allagash Falls, and Long Lake Dam.

The Flagstaff-Bow Loop Crew will be alternating each week between Flagstaff Lake and the Bow Loop Trail. Flagstaff Lake is near Stratton, Maine and the Bow Loop Trail is near Jackman, Maine.

**Do I need my own car?**

We will have a crew vehicle available for the 3-person Roving Crew. The AWW and Flagstaff-Bow Loop Crews will need to have their own transportation. If you do need to use your vehicle for work related activities mileage compensation will be provided at \$.575 per mile. Interns have found it useful to have their vehicles for days off. Some weeks we will be able to drive back to NFCT headquarters in Vermont where vehicles can be parked for work weeks. It is recommended that the person vehicle going into the Allagash Wilderness Waterway be all wheel drive with 10-ply tires.

**What about my own boat?**

No, you do not need your own canoe or kayak, although you are welcome to bring your own boat with you. Most projects will not require transportation by boat, and where they do, NFCT or its partners will provide a boat.

**Where will I live?**

Stewardship interns will be camping for the 10-week period, sometimes in back-country locations such as NFCT campsites, sometimes in front-country locations such as State Campgrounds or on the property of one of NFCT's partner organizations. Interns will need to be comfortable living outside full time and will need to be prepared for (and preferably to love) the vagaries of New England weather.

**Will I ever get a hot shower?**

Sure. We have lots of partners along the route who help with all manner of trail work, including helping out interns with showers and internet access.

**What kinds of stewardship projects will I work on?**

There is a wide range of projects to be done this summer! You will be involved with clearing portage trails, maintaining or building campsites, building trail structures, and helping to organize volunteer work projects. Interns may do streambank restoration or tree-planting, work with a local group to design a nature trail or a new paddler access, or do education and outreach. We will try to match specific academic interests with applicable stewardship projects to the extent that this is possible.

**What is the application process?**

Interns need to submit the application posted on the [NFCT website](#) and email a resume and three references to [intern@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org](mailto:intern@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org). Application materials are due by March 8, 2016. Finalists will be interviewed the latter half of March, and a decision will be made by early April.