



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 of 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 4th– August 10th, 2017.

Is a stipend provided?

Yes, interns will be provided with a \$3,000 stipend for the 10-week experience. In addition, interns will be provided food during training weeks and when there is a Waterway Work Trip (WWT) with volunteers.

What is a WWT?

WWT are weekends where we invite volunteers to pitch-in on a trail project. Each intern can expect to lead one WWT. During this experience you will be responsible for group safety, volunteer management, and project outcome.

Is training provided?

All NFCT stewardship interns will receive two weeks of the program. Topics include group dynamics, paddle skills, NFCT protocol, and working with rock and lumber structures. There will be additional opportunities for trainings throughout the season, and a chance to meet professional land managers while in the field.

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?

Prior camping is very helpful, so you know you will be comfortable in the settings we will be working and living in during the course of the internship.

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. Schedule may be Monday to Friday or Wednesday to Sunday depending on WWT Schedule. WWTs typically occur Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

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 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 internship will take place in each of the four states 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.

Do I need my own car?

We will have a crew vehicle available for the interns. This vehicle can be used during days off, within reason (i.e. driving ~50 miles from the worksite). Some 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 the duration of work weeks.

What about my own boat?

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.