LAND MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION


Description: Spend your spring break gaining valuable experience and learning skills in the oldest and largest Forest Preserve in the nation. The Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) create an emerald jewel around the City of Chicago comprised of 69,000 acres of a variety of ecosystems. Learn about how the FPCC manages these valuable natural resources, the tools used to do the job and ways we are adapting to environmental changes in a highly urbanized environment. Typical work days include: invasive species removal, brush pile burning, tree care and removal, herbicide application, prescription burning and other general land management responsibilities.

Duration: 5 days in a week; Monday-Sunday, 6:30am-2:30pm (Please note: times are subject to change based on weather conditions and projects available)

Number of Positions per site: 5

Staff Supervisor: Robb Chapman, Resource Specialist III
Phone: 312-237-5350
Email: Robert.chapman@cookcountyil.gov

Duties and Requirements

- Must be a college/university student enrolled in a Forestry, Restoration, Sustainability, Environmental Science, Ecology or similar major
- Needs one recommendation letter from a current professor/advisor
- Must provide own transportation to the Resource Management site
- Participants may choose to sign up to camp at one of the FPCC camping sites or must provide own housing arrangements
- Start/end times and locations may be adjusted based on work; Saturday & Sunday work may be available if weather allows for prescription burning
- Steel toe boots required if using chainsaw (must have formal chainsaw training); Sturdy work boots required otherwise
- Must dress for outdoor work, including long pants. Layers, long sleeves, hat and sun protection recommended
- Tools & PPE provided by the Forest Preserves of Cook County
- Must have the ability to lift objects over 25 lbs. continuously during a work day and be comfortable working around loud machinery
- Experience in plant ID, brush removal, general land management and formal chainsaw training preferred
- Chicago Wilderness Midwest Ecological Burn Crew Member or NWCG Basic Wildland Firefighter training preferred
- All volunteers are required to complete an orientation and training for their position. Training is done on-site by a staff representative and includes a brief tour and description of the site-specific duties
- Online application and criminal background check required
- Please upload your resume and letter of recommendation to your Online Profile