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Champlain Area Trails

**is seeking two *Special Project Trail Stewards* to install
direction signs at 60+ trail junctions**

Job Description: Trail Junctions Signs Installation Crew

Background:

Champlain Area Trails (CATS) began in 2007 when its founders acted on a long-held dream of establishing a network of hiking/skiing trails in the Champlain Valley. In 2009 CATS became a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with the mission to *make trails, save land, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality*. Since then, we have protected 983 acres and developed 42+ trails totaling more than 67 miles.

Many of our trails have intersections and junctions with each other that need to have direction signs so hikers know where they are and what trail to take. CATS has received grants to purchase the signs and hire a two-person crew to install the signs. This is the perfect job for someone seeking short-term, physically active employment working outside in nature.

Position Details:

Summary of Responsibilities: The two Special Project Trail Stewards will work as a team to place trail direction signs at 75+ trail junctions. They will carry or use a garden cart to bring posthole digging tools, 4" x 4" posts of 6 – 8 feet in length, signs, and tools to attach signs to the posts. For places where holes cannot be dug, they will use concrete to make a heavy base to hold the post and signs. They may occasionally work with volunteers on the project.

They will work for 2 – 4 months for about 25-35 hours per week depending on their schedules and how long it takes to complete specific trail sign installation projects. They will be supervised by the Director of Trails and Land Management.

Board of Directors: Jackie Bowen, John Davis, Mike Derrick, Vincent DuPont,
Genevieve Griffin, Ray Johnson, Cynthia Ford-Johnson, Dan Keegan, Steven Kellogg,
Janet Mallon, Annie McKinley, Ana Maria Moore, Martha Smiles, Steven Shepstone



The specific tasks include the following:

- Transport tools, posts, and signs to the trails.
- Use a garden cart to carry the tools, posts, and signs to the junctions on each trail.
- Dig post holes to install the posts. Alternatively, if there are large stones or too shallow of soils above the bedrock, build a form to hold concrete, mix the concrete and use it to secure the post in the form, and place rocks on the concrete so it looks natural.
- Install the posts and make sure they are level.
- Attach the signs.
- Use personal cell phones to take photos of the post and sign and working on the project for social media that the communications staff will post.
- While hiking the trail, make note of any issues that need to be worked. They may occasionally help with maintenance of the trails (cutting branches, fixing trail markers, etc.).
- This is a grant-funded position. If sign installation project is completed before the grant funds are expended, the steward will maintain hiking/skiing trails – cut branches, fallen trees, mow grass and vegetation where trails go through fields and some forests, install and replace trail markers and signs, build gates, fences, bridges, and boardwalks

Qualifications/Preferences:

- Ability to work with shovels, posthole diggers, digging bar, levels, and drills
- Good physical shape
- Ability to work independently and with a team.
- Professional attitude and demeanor, highly motivated and responsible.
- Ability to remain flexible under pressure.
- Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation, and a good driving record. Use of a truck would be helpful

Salary and Benefits:

- Salary: \$15 - \$20/hour commensurate with experience
- Health insurance: None at this time.
- Retirement: None at this time.
- Vacation and Sick Days – As noted in CATS Personnel Policy.

To Apply: Submit resume and cover letter to info@champlainareatrails.com or mail to: Champlain Area Trails, P.O. Box 193, Westport, NY 12993.