

Summer Trail Stewardship Intern Champlain Area Trails Westport, New York



For the summer of 2025, join a trails and land conservation organization in the beautiful Lake Champlain region of New York's Adirondack Park.

Organizational Information: Champlain Area Trails (Champlain Area Trails), a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, began in 2009 when its founders acted on a long-held dream of establishing a network of trails in the Champlain Valley with the mission of CATS is to make trails, save land, connect people with nature, and promote economic vitality. Since its founding, CATS has developed 52 trails totaling almost 100 miles and promotes 88 additional hiking trails in New York's Champlain Valley through its many partnerships.

CATS has protected over 3,000 acres for natural habitat, wildlife migration, and sustainable farming. Every year, area residents and regional, national, and international visitors enjoy thousands of experiences in this outdoor wonderland. CATS is an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, which affirmed it has sound finances, practices ethical conduct and responsible governance, and can ensure lasting stewardship.

Summary of Responsibilities: *Champlain Area Trails (CATS) seeks two Summer Trail Steward Interns.* These positions will average 40 hours per week. The Interns will work from approx. May 30th to August 16th to maintain and create hiking/skiing trails, help manage CATS's fee properties, work with volunteers, participate in outdoor education, interact with landowners, and participate in community affairs. The Director of Trails and Land Management will supervise them. This is a full-time, seasonal (2-4 months) position, depending on the interns' availability.

When: Approx. May 27 – August 18, 2025 (housing will be provided only during this time, but we are flexible on the date range of the internship)

Accommodations: Interns are provided housing at DaCy Meadow, an agro-tourism farm two miles from Westport's CATS office. They will get a unique opportunity to live in a community connected to a destination town on the shores of Lake Champlain with easy access to the many recreational opportunities in the Adirondack Park. Loaner bikes are available to make transportation between the farm and the CATS office possible.

Primary Responsibilities Trails:

- Maintain hiking/skiing trails – prune branches, remove fallen trees, mow grass and vegetation where trails go through fields and some forests, install and replace trail markers and signs, and build gates, fences, bridges, and boardwalks.
- Create new trails, including scoping trail routes, and identify infrastructure needs and potential costs.
- Work with and sometimes supervise volunteers on trail projects.
- Distribute CATS Trail Maps at designated locations (businesses, kiosks, tourist sites)
- Assess invasives' impacts on trails and work on strategies to address the issues.
- Assist CATS staff in reviewing and updating trail descriptions on the CATS website.
- Review the management plans for CATS properties and work with staff to make updates where needed.
- Develop or help develop management plans for CATS conservation easement properties.

Qualifications/Preferences:

- Some experience with tools used for trail maintenance: working with lawnmowers, hand saws, weed whackers, pruners, and shovels.
- Exposure to carpentry work: the ability to work on bridge and boardwalk construction.
- Ability to hike much of the day over varied terrains, with mileage sometimes reaching upwards of seven miles for a full day.
- Willing and able to work with walk-behind brush mowers and hand and power tools.
- Ability to work independently and with a team.
- Able to read and interpret topographic maps.
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- An interest in sustainable trails and land conservation and management.
- Professional attitude and demeanor, highly motivated and responsible.
- Ability to remain flexible under pressure.
- Able to work on occasional weekend days.
- Preferably has a valid driver's license and a good driving record; experience driving a truck is helpful.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite; social media skills helpful but optional.

Salary and Benefits:

- \$1,320 biweekly pay (paid an hourly rate of \$17.00)
- Reimbursement of miles driven in own vehicle if used for CATS work (not to and from work)
- Outdoor gear discounts
- Housing is provided at no cost to the interns at DaCy Meadow in Westport, NY, if needed.

To Apply: Submit resume and cover letter to info@champlainareatrails.com or mail them to Champlain Area Trails, P.O. Box 193, Westport, NY 12993, by March 8th, 2025.

About Westport, NY, and the Champlain Valley

The town of Westport, where the CATS office is located, is one of the scenic and historic lakefront communities in New York's Champlain Valley. The "Lake Champlain Region," where the Adirondack Mountains meet breathtaking Lake Champlain, offers a calm, laid-back, and fun-filled quality of life for residents and tourists only a few hours from major metropolitan areas. It is located on the eastern edge

of the Adirondack Park, a unique 6-million-acre mix of public and private lands protected by state law and region-wide zoning promoting a forever-wild natural environment. Along with the nearby Lake Placid and the mountainous High Peaks region, the Champlain Valley offers four seasons of outdoor recreation. Vermont is across Lake Champlain and easily accessible by ferry or driving. Montreal is 90 minutes north, and New York City is 4.5 hours south by car. Amtrak stops at Westport's historic train station on its run between New York City and Montreal. National and international access is available through airports in Burlington, VT, Albany, and Montreal. The region is rich in American and indigenous peoples' history dating to the country's founding. The beauty of the region, along with its accessibility, affordability, lakes, mountains, and friendly people, make this a rare opportunity to join a team providing lasting impact in a place unlike any other.

Diversity & Inclusion

Champlain Area Trails is an EA/EO employer and actively encourages candidates with diverse backgrounds to apply. It does not discriminate against any candidate or employee based on race, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or veteran status.

Data show that some candidates do not apply for a job because they don't feel they meet all the qualifications listed. Our job descriptions are general overviews, not a mandatory comprehensive list. As a small and growing organization, we appreciate diverse skills and candidates who are eager and willing to grow and learn with our organization. We want to hear from you if you feel passionate about our work and believe you have the skills to succeed in this role.

