



Heart Lake Program Center
1002 Adirondack Loj Road
Lake Placid, NY
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PHOTOPOINT MONITORING FIELD TECHNICIAN

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club) works to protect New York State wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates. Since 1922, the organization has worked to increase access to the backcountry by building trails, conserving natural areas, and developing a stewardship community that supports the ethical and safe use of New York's outdoor spaces. A member, donor, and volunteer-supported organization, ADK reaches across New York through its 27 chapters to inspire people to enjoy the outdoors ethically.

POSITION SUMMARY

A Photopoint Monitoring Field Technician's primary responsibility is to: 1) locate and retake photopoint pictures and 2) establish new photopoints and document their location using a digital camera in the Adirondack alpine zone. This project aims to quantify human trampling of alpine vegetation to support the efforts of Summit Stewards and land managers in protecting New York's rarest ecosystem. This project is a partnership between the Summit Stewardship Program and the New York Natural Heritage Program.

The Field Technician is also responsible for Summit Steward duties like educating the hiking public about the rare and fragile alpine communities of the high peaks, encouraging hikers to walk on the solid bedrock above treeline, and trail maintenance projects.

The Photopoint Monitoring Field Technician is an employee of the Adirondack Mountain Club. The Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort of the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and ADK.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Research – 80%

- Work to collect population data of state listed alpine plants, which is used to update the database of the New York Natural Heritage Program
- Collect data on current research projects including AMC's Mountain Watch and photopoint monitoring
- Complete data sheets
- Use a GPS, map and directions to relocate the nails for preexisting photopoints
- Retake photopoints using a digital camera by setting up a tripod above the nail using specified height, angle, and direction, then level the tripod and take the photo using the pre-determined settings
- Work with ADK and the New York Natural Heritage Program to add photopoints to new and existing locations across the Adirondack alpine zone

- Collect data on new photopoints including GPS coordinates, map drawings, directions, and locator photographs

Education – 10%

- Provide a welcoming atmosphere to the public
- Through “low-key,” person to person educational contacts on the summits protect the endangered alpine flora by encouraging hikers to walk on the solid bedrock
- Provide hikers with interpretive education to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the alpine ecosystem. Have information available about the natural history, ecology, Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics, and botany of the summits
- Provide accurate trail information
- Encourage hikers to follow DEC regulations and inform DEC of trail misuse and emergencies, provide first aid when necessary. Summit Stewards **are not law enforcement**
- The Summit Stewardship Program **shall not be responsible for** initiating or conducting backcountry search and rescue operations

Trail Maintenance – 10%

- Complete alpine trail definition projects which include
 - building scree walls
 - rock packing exposed soil
 - brushing in social trails
 - (re)building rock cairns
 - (re)painting trail blazes

QUALIFICATIONS

Basic:

- A passion for outdoor education and a commitment to the mission, values, and vision of the Adirondack Mountain Club
- Commitment to stewardship and environmental education
- Self-driven and comfortable working independently with minimal supervision and as a team
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively with a diversity of people
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail to manage the project
- Ability to use a GPS and a map
- Experience using DSLR digital cameras
- Must be willing to live and work outdoors in inclement weather
- Ability to tolerate long hours, insects, and solitude
- Ability to navigate 5-10 miles by foot over rough terrain with heavy pack filled with equipment daily
- Gather and report use figures from the summits to be incorporated into the High Peaks Unit Management Plan and complete weekly reports
- Participate in the evaluation of the program by preparing a final report that details the season and makes suggestions for the future
- Supplemental duties/responsibilities to support other club operations, as requested

Preferred:

- Backcountry camping experience
- Current enrollment in or completion of an undergraduate degree in the natural sciences or photography
- A strong knowledge of natural history (especially alpine botany), ecology, and the landscape of the Adirondacks

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

Reports to: Stewardship Manager

Classification: Full-time, Seasonal, non-exempt

Dates: Friday of Memorial Day weekend – Indigenous Peoples’ Day; end date negotiable

Salary/Wage: \$13.50/hour

Benefits: Paid sick time; paid certification in Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and Leave No Trace Trainer workshop; free ADK workshops, discounts on store merchandise and rental equipment.

Housing: Tent accommodations at backcountry sites during work week, meals not provided; Additional shared housing in yurt or canvas tent available at Heart Lake Program Center for off days with three meals a day available for free.

ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

As an organization, we appreciate a diverse set of skills and candidates eager and willing to grow and learn with our organization. As such, our job descriptions are general overviews, not a mandatory comprehensive list. If you feel passionate about our efforts and believe that you have the skills and aptitude to succeed in this role, we want to hear from you.

ADK affirms its commitment to equal employment opportunity for all individuals. Decisions about recruiting, hiring, training, promotions, compensation, benefits, and all similar employment matters are made in compliance with all federal, state and local laws and without regard to race, color, religion, gender, ethnic or national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, military status or any other classification protected by federal or state law. Any discrimination in the workplace against persons protected by equal employment opportunity laws is illegal and against policy.