POSITION DESCRIPTION

TITLE	**AmeriCorps Crew Leader and Stewardship Assistant**
JOB FAMILY	Full Time 1700 hours
DURATION	January 4- December 17, 2027
DEADLINE	Open

Job Description

The Bur Oak Land Trust AmeriCorps Program serves to improve the biodiversity of protected lands through habitat improvement and invasive species removal. Members will assist in the restoration of habitat throughout the Land of the Swamp White Oak, a project area managed by The Nature Conservancy in Iowa, that includes globally rare plant communities such as channel fens and lowland oak savannas.

The Crew Leader and Stewardship Assistant will be based out of Land of the Swamp White Oak Preserve near Nichols, IA and will assist with the preparation of tools, equipment, vehicles, and field gear prior to crew arrival and will participate in crew orientation and safety training during the week of March 1.

Under the direction of the Eastern Iowa Land Stewards, the Crew Leader is responsible for overseeing day-to-day crew operations, ensuring adherence to safety policies and training requirements, and working alongside crew members during field activities. This position requires daily outdoor physical labor for extended periods in challenging environmental conditions.

Prior to and following the crew season, the Stewardship Assistant/Crew Leader will assist with additional stewardship activities at the Land of the Swamp White Oak Field Office and other TNC and partner properties. Duties may include invasive species control, tree and brush removal, prescribed fire operations, and other land management activities requiring occasional overnight travel.

AmeriCorps required qualifications:

- Must be a high school graduate or GED equivalent
- Must be at least 17 years old or older at the start of service
- Must pass a 3-part national service criminal history check
- Must have a valid driver's license or other government issued photo identification
- Must hold one of the following citizenship statuses: US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident

Position Responsibilities

- Chainsaw operations skills including limbing, bucking, stumping, slash-cutting, and limited tree felling.
- Invasive species control by mechanical means and safely applying herbicide.
- Preserve monitoring and boundary posting.
- Monitoring conservation projects, including data collection and reporting.
- Serve as a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) on prescribed fire operations including ignitions, holding, patrol and mop-up duties.
- Timber stand improvement by removing invasive or overabundant trees and brush using chainsaws.
- Conduct plant and animal surveys.
- Operate program vehicles safely at all times.

- Maintenance of preserve infrastructure, tools and power equipment - promptly alert site supervisor of any mechanical issues or repairs.
- Prairie reconstruction by collecting native seeds and mowing prairie with a tractor or skid-steer.
- Monitoring reptile and amphibian species each week, potentially including radio-telemetry tracking of individual species in the field.
- May participate in grazing management and livestock handling if time and weather allow, which includes vegetation monitoring, fence-building, removal and repair and assisting with virtual fence collar-fitting on cattle.
- Must be qualified, or be able to become qualified within the first 2 weeks of enrollment, as a Fire Fighter Type 2 (FFT2) including,
  - Introduction to ICS (I-100),
  - Human Factors on the Fire line (L-180),
  - Introduction to Wild Land Fire Behavior (S-190),
  - Firefighting Training (S-130),
  - and one training burn or field day administered by qualified personnel.
  - Includes passing physical fitness testing for Fire Fighter Type 2 or Prescribed Fire Crew Member. See http://www.tncfiremanual.org/firefighter.htm for more information.

WORKING CONDITIONS/PHYSICAL EFFORT

The crew leader and crew may travel throughout Iowa to assist with prescribed fire and other stewardship activities during the field season, which runs from March 1 through September 30. Lodging may include bunkhouses when available, as well as camping in state or county parks.

- Work in variable weather conditions, at remote locations, on difficult or hazardous terrain, and under physically demanding circumstances.
- Perform duties requiring considerable physical exertion, including lifting, carrying, bending, hiking, and operating equipment.
- Work extended hours in isolated field settings when project needs require.
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude despite physical or mental adversity
- Work on tallgrass prairie, deciduous forest, oak savannas, and wetland ecosystems
- Ability to safely use and maintain preserve tools and equipment

BENEFITS

Living allowance: $25,200 (pre tax)
Position is eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of the program. Education Award: $7,395.00
Housing: available if needed.

HOW TO APPLY

- Email resume *and* cover letter to iowa@tnc.org. In cover letter, please explain need for academic financial aid.
- Crew positions are open till filled. Any questions related to this specific internship may be directed to dmaxson@tnc.org .