



South Mountain Conservancy

South Mountain Reservation Stewardship, Advocacy & Public Engagement

FOREST REGENERATION INTERNSHIP POSITION SUMMER 2025

The South Mountain Conservancy is looking for two part-time interns, preferably college students, for the 2025 summer season to work in the 14-acre Wildflower and Forest Preserve and nearby forest regeneration sites. This program has been going on since 2017 and is a key part of the Conservancy's [Forest Regeneration Program](#).

The Preserve is an enclosed area surrounding the [Dog Park](#) with three major ecosystems: forest, meadow and vernal pond. It has approximately 1.3 miles of trails and several sculptures, part of the adjoining [Wildflower Sculpture Park](#). Located at 11 Bear Lane, off Crest Drive, in Essex County New Jersey's 2,110-acre South Mountain Reservation, it is on the eastern ridge of the Watchung Mountains, the First Mountain in the reservation.

The Preserve was established in April, 2008 with the initial development of trails, removal of invasive plant species, and installation of native plants funded by a 2007 DEP Recreational Trail Grant. More significant planting took place a year later as part of a comprehensive \$1 million forest regeneration program originally proposed by the Conservancy and funded by NJ Green Acres and the Essex County's Open Space Trust Fund.

Founded in March 2000, the Conservancy is a volunteer-driven, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to preserve, protect, and enhance the South Mountain Reservation through active stewardship, advocacy, and public engagement.

Responsibilities

A general weekly work plan for the summer will be established at the beginning of the Internship by the Forest Regeneration Program Coordinator(s), and progress will be reviewed each week. Direct supervision will be limited to around two times per week. The major tasks will be:

- Native species preservation and restoration in the Preserve and other forest regeneration sites.
- Removal of invasive plant species.
- Improvement of trails.
- Completion of an interpretive trail and materials for the public (possible website pages)
- Maintenance of intern logs, with pictures on Instagram (and connected to our website, www.somocon.org and Facebook page) to keep a record of and publicize the work.
- Summary report at the end of the program for the SMC Board.
- Development, with approval, of a specific project in the Preserve or in a regeneration site (deer enclosure) focused on improving the ecology, etc.

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P.O. Box 273, South Orange, NJ 07079 www.somocon.org info@somocon.org **(844) SOMOCON**

Requirements

- A self-starter who is comfortable working independently with little direct supervision. Direct supervision will only occur a couple of times per week.
- Ability to work outdoors in summer weather conditions, and perform physically strenuous field work in rugged terrain is required.
- Knowledge of New Jersey native and invasive plants, and an interest in ecology and forest restoration is preferred, but not required.
- Personal transportation and a commitment for the full term of the internship is required.

Salary and Hours

The internship is for approximately 20 hours per week over a 10-week period (200 hours total) from approximately June 23 through August 29, 2025. The compensation will be \$18.00 per hour. To allow flexibility, if pre-arranged, interns can work any eight weeks during this period at a maximum of 25 hours per week. The intern is expected to generally work four days a week, five to six hours a day. Starting early in the morning is recommended to avoid the hot afternoons. Housing and transportation are not provided. Interns will be considered independent contractors and will be sent 1099 forms at the end of the year.

To Apply

Please send the following materials by Friday, April 25, 2025 to forestregen@somocon.org

1. A resume (maximum of two pages)
2. A cover letter addressing why you are interested in this internship, what you hope to gain from this experience, and what skills, knowledge and background makes you think you would be successful and find it enjoyable.
3. Names, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and mailing addresses of three references

Rich Rockwell
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Dennis Percher
Chair, Board of Trustees
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