



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Cleveland National Forest
Descanso Ranger District

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Volunteer Outreach Notice

Position Description: Pacific Crest Trail Southern Terminus Host

Supervisor: Recreation and Lands Officer, Lindsey Steinwachs

Office Location: Cleveland National Forest, Descanso Ranger District, 3348 Alpine Blvd, Alpine, CA 91901

Organizational Mission:

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) is a treasured pathway through some of the most outstanding scenic terrain in the United States. Beginning in southern California at the Mexican border, the PCT travels a total distance of 2,650 miles through California, Oregon, and Washington until reaching the Canadian border. It is administered by the US Forest Service. The Forest Service partners with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, California State Parks, and the Pacific Crest Trail Association to provide effective management and protection of the trail.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association's mission is to protect, preserve and promote the PCT as a world-class experience for hikers and equestrians, and for all the values provided by wild and scenic lands.

Purpose:

The natural resources and unique recreation opportunities provided by the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) are impacted by five interrelated challenges:

- rapidly increasing number of visitors,
- concentration of visitors in time and space,
- insufficient adherence to / awareness of Leave No Trace practices,
- siting of campsites at nonresistant locations with impact to fragile water sources, and
- lack of understanding of management objectives including trail permit requirements.

While the environmental deterioration, aesthetic damage, crowding and conflict that may result from the above conditions are not new problems, the increasing popularity of the PCT has reinforced the need for improved visitor information and improved visitor use data in select areas.

Visitors come from a variety of backgrounds with varied levels of experience. The PCT Southern Terminus Host will work collaboratively with partners and USFS staff to provide accurate information and ensure that resource protection messages and management objectives are communicated to trail users.

Position Description:

This position will last 10-12 weeks from March until May 2018. During this period the Southern Terminus Host will be based at the PCT Southern Terminus trailhead between 7am – 12pm, 6 days per week, working under the supervision of the Pacific Crest Trail “Crest Runners.” Protecting the PCT experience is dependent upon informed users and current and reliable data. The Pacific Crest Trail Southern Terminus Host serves as a key member of the PCT team, providing visitor information and education and compiling visitor use data. The host often serves as the first face-to-face contact for trail users and should possess strong communication skills and be customer service oriented. The host will provide information to trail users about regulations, leave no trace principles and trip planning. The host will also compile and maintain visitor use data, keeping detailed records. The position will be primarily field-based and work in an outdoor setting in a variety of weather conditions.



Specific duties include, but are not limited to:

- Gathering and compiling visitor use data based on standard protocols
- Providing visitors with information about the trail (including trip planning, permit requirements, preparedness, and trail conditions) and leave no trace principles (including campsite selection, human waste management and dry camping considerations).
- Effectively communicating visitor use issues and management strategies to a wide and diverse audience while working closely with PCTA staff and partners.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to hike up to 3 miles and lift and move moderate weight (50+ pounds)
- Weekend work will be required
- Requires the ability to work under adverse weather conditions.

Desired Qualifications:

- An education and/or experience in natural resource management, recreation ecology, or similar field
- Experience hiking, backpacking and practicing Leave No Trace principles
- Familiarity with the Pacific Crest Trail
- Experience working independently in remote settings, in all weather conditions.
- A demonstrated ability to engage diverse groups and build relationships to advance action toward goals
- Data management skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly organized self-starter who can track, manage and report on multiple items with minimal supervision and successful completion.

Position Requirements:

- Must live within commuting distance of the Southern Terminus (near Campo, CA) or accept the provided campsite amenities offered for the position.
- Must have a personal vehicle to go travel to and from duty station.

Compensation:

- A campsite (no trailer hook-up) in the Cleveland National Forest will be provided within commuting distance of the Southern Terminus and Descanso District Office in Alpine, CA. Individual must provide their own vehicle, trailer or tent for housing.
- Compensation for mileage will be provided at an IRS chartable rate (14 cents/mile) for up to 30 miles (15 miles one way) of daily commuting travel to and from the duty station (Pacific Crest Trail Southern Terminus in Campo, CA). The provided campground is located within the 15 mile commuting radius and is eligible to receive commuting compensation for mileage.
- Government rate per diem for food
- Volunteer will be provided with a uniform to wear on duty.

For inquiries regarding the position, contact Lindsey Steinwachs at (619) 445 – 6235 or by email: lcsteinwachs@fs.fed.us.

To apply please send a cover letter and resume to: lcsteinwachs@fs.fed.us by January 8th, 2018.