

Volunteer Position Description

Position Description: Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Kennedy Meadows Trailhead Host

Supervisor: Benjamin Barry, PCTA Southern Sierra Regional Representative

Office Location: Inyo National Forest, Mt. Whitney Ranger District, 640 South Main Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545

Position Description:

The Pacific Crest Trail Kennedy Meadows Trailhead Host position will last 6-10 weeks from May to July 2021. During this period the host will be based on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) near Kennedy Meadows.

The host will be tasked with finding the best specific locations, and the best specific times, to be present on the trail and administer their duties. This may include working early in the mornings or late into the evenings, and five to six days per week to maximize visitor interaction.

Protecting the PCT experience is dependent upon informing trail users of Leave No Trace information and reliable trail information. The Pacific Crest Trail Kennedy Meadows Trailhead 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 a willingness to work with others. The host will provide information to trail users about local regulations, Leave No Trace principles, and trail conditions. 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:

- Following enhanced safety procedures to curb the spread of COVID-19
- Gather and compile visitor use data based on standard protocols
- Provide visitors with information about Leave No Trace principles including campsite selection, human waste management, and dry camping considerations
- Provide information about the trail including trip planning, permit requirements, preparedness, and trail conditions
- Effectively communicate visitor use issues and management strategies to a wide and diverse audience, working closely with PCT 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 outside under adverse weather conditions up to five hours per day

Position Requirements:

- Must live within commuting distance of Kennedy Meadows or utilize the provided campsite amenities offered for the position
- Must have a personal vehicle for travel to and from duty station

Desired Qualifications:

- 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.