

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Crew Leader, Forest Preserve Experience Program
Reports to: Youth and Engagement Corps Manager
Open until filled | Start Date: June 16, 2025
Salary: \$23.50 per hour
30 hours paid training, June 16-18 & June 23- June 27
8am - 3pm



411 S. Wells St.
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60607
312.356.9990
fotfp.org

28 hours per week, June 30 thru August 1 2025
July 4 off, unpaid
8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Organization:

Mission: We unite people to protect, promote, and care for the forest preserves in Cook County.

Our community advocates for the responsible management of the nearly 70,000 acres of forest preserves in Cook County through advocacy, engagement, and stewardship of the land. Some of the best natural areas in Illinois are right here in Cook County, right outside your urban backdoor. Join our team and help us ensure they are here for the next 100 years.

Friends is an organization that gets things done with our members, volunteers, staff, board, and partners. We believe in work-life balance and are here for the marathon, not the sprint (not that we don't sprint on a regular basis).

Operating Budget: \$3,750,000


Summary: Friends of the Forest Preserves seeks Crew Leaders to be part of the Forest Preserve Experience (FPE) leadership team. FPE is a five-week summer program for teens, focused on job skill development, restoration training and work, environmental education, and exposure to the forest preserves and jobs in conservation. For many participants, this program serves as a first job, so Crew Leaders excel in relating to and guiding youth through the program. Successful candidates have strong communication skills, experience leading high school aged students, and a passion for environmental conservation.

Responsibilities:

- Co-supervise, motivate, coordinate, and mentor 12 high school youth (ages 14-19) employed in the FPE program
- Plan and lead a variety of hands-on ecological conservation and restoration projects (such as invasive species removal and litter pick-up) in forest preserves in Cook County
- Lead educational activities as well as team building exercises and games
- Demonstrate safe tool usage and ensure safety procedures are followed
- Teach basic invasive plant identification to crew members
- Evaluate and document crew attendance, work activities, and performance

board of directors

Ed Woodbury, Chair | Cory Chaplin, Treasurer | Margaret Frisbie, Secretary
Corryn Antonizio | Kathleen Bruch | Walter Burlack | José H. Colón | Dr. Charles D. Dillon | Thomas Greenhaw, Jr | Tonyisha Harris
Barbara C. Hill | Jason Kaple | Dr. Akilah R. Martin | Justin Martin | Dr. Ron Milnarik | Kelly O'Brien | Derk Osenberg | Ryan Wilson

 Benjamin Cox, Executive Director

- Positively represent Friends of the Forest Preserves at work site and while participating in recreational activities

Required Qualifications:

- 21 years or older
- Ability to arrive at forest preserve locations and community colleges in south suburbs of Cook County on time
- Must be able to attend mandatory training June 16 - June 27 in addition to being able to serve entire length of program
- Experience working with diverse groups of youth and strong interest in working with and mentoring youth
- Ability to foster strong work habits, environmental ethics, leadership, and team unity
- Experience teaching in classroom and/or field setting a plus
- Ability to maintain an inclusive, safe, productive, and enjoyable work environment
- Excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Outdoor skills, plant identification skills, knowledge of Midwestern ecology is preferred but not required
- Current basic First Aid and adult CPR certifications or willingness to obtain one (Training provided)
- Willingness to obtain a Illinois Alternative Herbicide license (Training provided)
- Ability to lift and move heavy objects (50 lbs.) and work outside in inclement weather and extreme temperatures

Dates of Employment:

Local Program Training: June 16-18 & June 23- June 27 from 8 am to 3 pm

Program Dates: June 30 thru August 1 (5 days a week for 5 weeks)

July 4 off, unpaid

Crew Leaders work 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday thru Friday

To apply: Submit cover letter, resume, and two references via the Friends' website at <https://fotfp.org/who-we-are/jobs/> . Incomplete applications may not be considered. Please NO calls, faxes, office visits, or emails.

Friends of the Forest Preserves strongly encourages people of all identities to apply. We strive to include people of every race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, and/or sexual orientation. Friends is an equal opportunity employer, in addition to observing all legal protections of special status, promoting diversity in the conservation community.