

Project Wild America Youth Ambassadors-Crew Leader Positions

Overview

As part of its ongoing efforts to better understand the natural history of our region and promote environmental literacy and stewardship, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History is excited to offer its Project Wild America (PWA) Youth Ambassador program in Jamestown NY for a fifth year. As part of this program, RTPI is recruiting interested area high school students as youth ambassadors and college students as ambassador leaders to represent Project Wild America in the Greater Jamestown area. These students will work alongside RTPI conservation and education staff investigating, monitoring and improving habitat for threatened species in the area and raising public awareness about our important natural resources, environmental challenges and opportunities.

Position Summary

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History is seeking two qualified individuals to serve as crew leaders. The crew leaders will supervise and train eight Youth Ambassadors (high school students) in their daily activities. Crew leaders will receive two weeks of paid training (Monday June 10th through Friday June 21st) and work with the crew from June 24th until August 3rd. During that period, normal workdays will run Monday through Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm; however, occasional early morning, evening or weekend hours will be required for special events and/or surveys. Crew Leaders will be paid \$11.10 per hour for 35 hours per week and paid bi-weekly.

Duties

Under the supervision of RTPI staff, Crew Leaders will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the PWA project. Duties will include (but are not limited to):

- Mentor, motivate, and inspire youth serving as PWA Youth Ambassadors.
- Facilitate team building and help the Youth Ambassadors work through challenging situations.
- Become familiar with program goals and a crew leader's role in attaining them.
- Manage equipment used for various aspects of ongoing studies.
- Enter collected data into relevant state and national databases.
- Assist in ongoing and new studies on local species and systems including but not limited to studying native breeding birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invasive species, water quality issues, microplastics existing within various trophic levels as well as the overall ecology of the Chadakoin River, Chautauqua Lake Outlet and surrounding cityscape within Jamestown, NY.
- Provide outreach to the local community through organized public presentations and walks, carrying out conservation-related activities for children including school groups from Jamestown Public Schools, etc., manning informational booths and leading activities at RTPI's Wild America Festival July 27th-28th as well as city-organized festivals that occur throughout the summer season and using various traditional (newspaper, radio) and social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat and PWA website).

RTPI staff will provide appropriate training in job skills and team cooperation, as well as in species identification, biological monitoring techniques and conservation practices throughout the program. In addition, RTPI will provide the necessary equipment to carry out project duties.

On select days during the summer the PWA Crew and Crew Leaders may explore other regional conservation projects and/or work with other conservation partner organizations to increase exposure to the variety of environmental careers that exist in our area and to gain a broad understanding of the region's tremendous natural history assets.

Qualifications and Experience

- Crew leaders must be responsible, mature, and able to serve as mentors to the PWA Youth Ambassadors.
- Good communication skills required. Crew leaders should be comfortable interacting with Youth Ambassadors, their families, the public, and project partners.
- Must be punctual and respond to emails, text messages, etc. in a timely manner.
- Good planning skills desired. In the event of poor weather, the Youth Ambassadors will meet at an alternate location. Crew Leaders need check the weather daily and keep the Ambassadors informed.
- Knowledge of local flora and fauna is desirable
- Crew leaders are required to successfully complete a day long Basic First Aid/CPR certification course prior to June 24th (RTPI can arrange for the course to be taken if needed).

To apply

Please send a cover letter, including an explanation of why you would like to participate in this program, and resume to:

Project Wild America Youth Ambassador Coordinator
Roger Tory Peterson Institute
311 Curtis Street Jamestown, New York 14701
Email: pwa@rtpi.org
Tel.: 716-665-2473 ext. 231

Applications are due no later than May 3rd by 4pm