

NEW POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

AmeriCorps VISTA Intern

Position Description: Full time yearlong internship. This is an [AmeriCorps VISTA](#) project entitled “Healthy Trails, Healthy Towns”. This project uses trails as infrastructure to improve the health and economy of legacy coal mining communities. Trails can improve local communities’ economies and help alleviate poverty by providing sustainable tourism and improving the health of residents. The VISTA intern will work in the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor with a focus on Carbon and Luzerne counties. Carbon and Luzerne counties lost economic opportunities with the collapse of the coal mining industry. This resulted in lower wages, loss of jobs, poor community health, and depressed downtown business districts. The VISTA will help build capacity of the local communities by implementing our [D&L Trail Town Process](#) and [Get Your Tail on the Trail Program](#) (TOT) to improve the economy and health of residents.

Responsibilities:

- The VISTA intern will be part of the D&L Trails and Conservation Department and supervised by the department director.
- For the D&L Trail Town Process the VISTA intern will work in Luzerne and Carbon counties to guide at least one town in each county through the process. This will include:
 - Recruiting and training local steering committee
 - Recruiting community members to participate in the process
 - Leading the public meetings
 - Collecting and interpreting the data to assist with creating a town work plan
 - Helping the communities implement the work plans and write grants
- For TOT program, the VISTA intern will work in Carbon and Luzerne Counties to promote the program and launch new chapters. This will include:
 - Expand and promote TOT to the public and partner agencies
 - Recruit volunteers to participate in the program
 - Exhibit at or hold at least two outreach events each year to promote the program
 - Hold at least two TOT events each year to promote trails and increase participation
- Assist with Trail Tenders events to help volunteers maintain sections of trail.
- Assist the D&L with promoting trails and health throughout the five-county National Heritage Area.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree.
- Familiarity with word processing, spreadsheet, database, email, GIS, and other office software; knowledge of Acrobat and/or web design software preferred.
- Strong interpersonal, organizational, multi-tasking, negotiation and analytical skills with the ability to work independently within a team.
- Maturity, self-confidence, humor, flexibility, interest in acquiring new skills, professional manner, cultural sensitivity, and a friendly, problem-solving personality.
- Experience leading groups of volunteers.
- A valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills, including spelling, punctuation and grammar; excellent attention to detail.
- A track record of integrity, honesty, reliability and performance.
- Genuine interest in issues related to land stewardship and trails; previous nonprofit experience, particularly in the environmental field, a plus.
- A desire to join a supportive, dedicated, high-output, fun-loving team of professionals.
- Must be available for evening meetings and weekend events

Background:

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) preserves the historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the D&L Trail connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage.

The D&L was established by Congress in 1988 to celebrate our nationally significant story centered on the transport of anthracite coal from the mines of Luzerne and Carbon County to the markets in the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia.

But the D&L isn't *just* a trail. We are a diverse organization with the ability to connect people to unique experiences in nature and the environment, community and economic impact, health and recreation, history, preservation, and education. This unique merger makes us a reliable resource, able connect you to experiences you feel good about. Along with the National Canal Museum (a Smithsonian Affiliate), we make our home in Hugh Moore Park in Easton PA. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Benefits: Monthly living stipend, student loan forbearance, end of service education award or cash award, settling in allowance, workers compensation, federal non compete status, health benefits, childcare assistance.

Please visit the AmeriCorps website for more information and to apply:

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=76392&fromSearch=true>

Applications accepted until noon on October 13, 2017. Work will begin in late November.

