

2017 Seasonal Position Announcement



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
A Partnership for Preservation

LEAD PROJECT MANAGERS & PROJECT MANAGERS for BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL CREWS

6-8 positions available

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) is a nonprofit organization working to protect and preserve the natural integrity of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks through active stewardship and public education. www.14ers.org

Come work on Colorado's highest peaks! CFI seeks to hire eight leadership positions to implement CFI's trail construction projects and alpine restoration projects on Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks (Fourteeners). These are engaging yet challenging positions based out of Colorado's rugged backcountry. This position requires a strong trailwork skillset; conservation ethic; excellent leadership, logistical, and team skills; and a desire to work in a challenging yet beautiful backcountry setting. Come and join CFI this summer!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CFI will have major trail construction, maintenance, and restoration projects occurring on the 2 peaks listed below. Each peak/site will have a 3-4 person CFI leadership team that oversees a youth conservation corps. Each team will work together in implementing trail projects; preparing and carrying out logistics; coordinating with the horse packer for transporting supplies; supervising basecamp operations (including tidiness, Leave No Trace, and health/safety); determining tool/equipment needs; and coordinating with work groups (youth corps and volunteers). All work hitches will be based out of a backcountry basecamp. Some time may be required in the USFS office in Leadville, CO. Work projects require hiking up to 8 miles per day at altitude, using heavy hand tools, extensive heavy stonework, and working and contributing as part of a team. Positions start in mid to late May and run through late September or early October.

Project Manager (6-8 positions)

Project Managers on each project will be responsible for: working with project partners to ensure all pre-season project logistics are in place, coordinate with partnering agencies, regularly communicate and update CFI Field Program Manager and Forest Service Peak Manager of the status of the project, train youth or CFI crew members in the various aspects of trail construction required for the projects, implement construction notes and ensure project deliverables are met while identifying project challenges and pro-actively prescribing solutions. Additionally, Project managers will be responsible for: the day to day management and training of crew members, setting a maintaining a high standard of trail work for the crew to follow, foster positive relationships with the hiking public, support project timeline, implement construction notes while identifying project challenges and pro-actively prescribing solutions.

LOCATIONS

Mount Elbert (near Leadville, CO):

Mount Elbert is located at the northern end of the Arkansas Valley, just southwest of the high mountain town of Leadville. Mount Elbert has the distinction of being the tallest peak in the state, along with this comes the increased popularity with hikers. Significant restoration damage has occurred on the upper slopes of this peak, resulting in fragile plant species habitat loss. This project will focus on the new construction of a sustainably aligned summit route on the Southeast Ridge of Mount Elbert. Experience using cross cut saws/chainsaws to fall and buck trees is preferred for these positions. Typical work schedules will be 4, 10 hour days on 3 days off. This project will require strong project planning skills and a high level of independence and commitment. Experience managing large scale projects is a desirable qualification to be considered for a position on this crew as is any

experience working with roughhewn timber, rigging equipment and pack stock. This Project Management Team will consist of 3-4 project managers.

Mount Columbia (near Buena Vista, CO):

As one of the steepest and most unstable 14er trails in the state of Colorado, the Mount Columbia trail is in need of extensive reconstruction and restoration as a result of overuse and improper alignment of the socially created summit trail. Relatively easy access and the beautiful surroundings of North Hornfork Basin make Mount Columbia an attractive destination for hiker visiting the Sawatch Range. A 3-4 person CFI team will be responsible for overseeing the trail construction and restoration projects designed to reduce recreational impacts on the peak. The project managers will lead a youth corps crew of 6-10 people throughout the season. The technical nature of this project requires applicants have multiple years of experience in rock work and a familiarity with working in steep, technical terrain. Typical work schedules will be 10, 8 hour days on with 4 days off. Schedules will be variable from week to week as needed to accommodate project demands. Rigging experience using tripods and highline setups is highly desired. Preference will be given to candidates with experience managing large scale projects, frequently interacting with recreationalists, and overseeing youth corps crews.

POSITION DUTIES

- Implement trail construction and maintenance projects at high altitude (11-14,000+ feet), including:
 - Extensive rock work including rock steps and walls.
 - Restoration including alpine tundra stabilization and re-vegetation.
 - Serving as the on-mountain expert on technical trail construction or restoration/re-vegetation work and ensure that project work is being constructed to established quality standards and timelines.
 - Setting regular project goals/priorities.
 - Providing/facilitating solutions for working through problem areas.
- Coordinate with CFI staff and US Forest Service (USFS) to implement CFI's project goals. Report on progress of field projects to CFI staff and committees as needed.
- Oversee the work of a 6-10 person youth corps crew, providing feedback and guidance to crew leaders as necessary
- Project planning and management: Determine human resources and equipment/materials needed to accomplish projects; setting project completion goals; overseeing project logistics (travel planning, tool preparation, food re-stocks, and lining out project work sections); materials planning; health and safety; and interaction with the public.
- Lead and train CFI staff and/or youth corps and/or volunteers in project tasks/techniques. Ensure project safety and quality.
- Prepare base camp setup and all relevant tools and gear from CFI's gear and tool caches. Transport gear to project site. Coordinate equipment packing with horsepackers
- Identify project challenges and pro-actively prescribe solutions.
- Supervise basecamp operations (set-up, sanitation, Leave No Trace, etc.).
- Foster a positive, open, engaging, and motivating experience for volunteers and/or youth corps members.
- Educate self, volunteers, and/or youth corps in alpine ecology and Leave No Trace principles.
- Base camp duties, meal prep, tool/equipment maintenance, public interaction.
- Continually enhance expertise in alpine trail restoration/construction techniques, crew management, and leadership.
- Photograph worksites before, during and after work is performed to document on-the-ground work accomplishments.
- Compile detailed project reports during and after the project season, including "as built" construction notes for trail reconstructed and for restoration work performed.
- Compile all project receipts and provide detailed financial reports on a schedule set by CFI's Controller.
- Education/outreach tasks including:
 - Educating volunteers and/or youth corps crewmembers on Leave No Trace and alpine ecology topics.
 - Contacting hikers/climbers on-mountain and present information about Leave No Trace and CFI.
 - Updating the CFI project blog site providing tracking updates using the Spot locator units

- Other tasks as assigned to contribute to the overall implementation and operations of CFI's projects.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Technical/Physical

- Trail building/maintenance experience in a supervisory role (or trail experience plus other project and people management experience). 3+ seasons of trailwork experience preferred.
- Strong rock work experience (stairs, retaining walls, check dams, etc) as pertaining to trails.
- Experience working with crosscut saw/chainsaws and performing roughhewn timber carpentry.
- Experience working with rigging equipment to move project materials in remote locations.
- Proficiency in travelling (hiking and navigating) and living in mountain backcountry environments.
- Excellent physical condition.
- Willingness and ability to live and perform strenuous work at high altitude for multiple consecutive days.

Leadership

- Outdoor leadership experience (or other leadership background).
- Positive, professional attitude.
- A strong passion for leading volunteers and/or young adults and related experience.
- Excellent communication, motivational and interpersonal skills applicable to a group outdoor setting.

Management/logistical

- Excellent organization, planning and logistical skills.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and delegate as necessary.
- Ability to pro-actively solve problems, work independently, and be creative and resourceful.
- Passion about the outdoors and a strong conservation ethic.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Attention to detail.

Other desirable qualifications include:

- S212 Chainsaw Training / FS Crosscut Certification
- Education or background in Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Ecology, Botany, or related field
- Botany/Ecology background (through education and/or work experience)
- Experience working within or managing a budget
- Experience working with horse-packing
- Experience working for or with the US Forest Service
- Environmental education experience
- Ecological restoration experience
- Familiarity with the alpine environment and ecology
- Digital photography/multimedia skills including photographing project accomplishments and field activities

ALL APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- Current valid drivers license and good driving record
- Certification in either a) Wilderness First Aid and CPR, or b) Wilderness First Responder (or have obtained these by the first date of employment)
- A personal vehicle to get to work rendezvous points
- Adequate personal outdoor camping/backpacking/hiking equipment
- Be available for the full term (or nearly full term) of the position – see above for approximate position dates

WORK SCHEDULE

See schedules above in Peak Location Description for Mount Elbert and Mount Columbia. The weekly work schedule has the potential to be highly variable (averaging around 40 hours/week), with work hitches of up to 10 days in length and occasional evenings required. Some travel, occasionally with a personal vehicle, is required. The work is physically demanding and is performed at high altitude in a backcountry environment. Position is primarily field-based, with occasional trips to local towns for supplies and logistics.

WAGES AND BENEFITS

Compensation for each position ranges from \$15.00 to \$20.00/hr. depending on experience.

Benefits include \$17/day per diem for field days; medical training allowance; eligibility for a performance-based bonus at the end of the season; and discounts on outdoor gear and equipment. Travel with a personal vehicle is reimbursed at the federal rate.

HOW TO APPLY

Positions available until filled. However, preference will be given to applications received by **Monday, March 6, 2017**. To apply, you will need to submit 1) CFI online application, 2) one-page cover letter, and 3) your resume as follows:

Fill out and submit an online **Application for Seasonal Employment & Internships** (link available on our website at www.14ers.org) Included in the online application will be instructions for how to submit your cover letter and resume to CFI. (NOTE: Cover letter and resume MUST be in MS Word or PDF format.)

If you have trouble with the online application form, submitting your materials in PDF or MS Word format, or submitting your cover letter and resume electronically, contact hire@14ers.org.

Finalists will be required to complete a medical history, physician's release form, and a driving background check.

All questions pertaining to these positions can be directed to hire@14ers.org. (Please, no phone inquiries). For additional information about CFI, please visit our website at www.14ers.org.

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative is an equal opportunity employer.

**Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
1600 Jackson St. Suite 205
Golden, CO 80401**