

2013 Seasonal Position Announcement

PROJECT MANAGERS for BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL CREWS

7 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

Project Manager – co-lead (7 positions) – CFI will have major trail construction, maintenance, and restoration projects occurring on the 3 peaks listed below. Each peak/site will have a 2-3person CFI leadership team that oversees a youth conservation corps crew and several volunteer groups implementing trail projects; preparing and carrying out logistics; coordinating with the horsepacker 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 CFI office in Golden, 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.

LOCATIONS

Mt. Eolus (near Silverton, CO):

Note: this is a VERY remote and rugged project. The Chicago Basin area where Mt. Eolus is located is accessed via a 2.5 hour train ride followed by a 6.5 mile hike. Because of the location of this project, it requires that the crew remain in the backcountry for multiple weeks at a time working out of a backcountry basecamp. 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 pack stock. This Project Management Team will consist of 3 CFI staff who will oversee the work of a 10 person youth corps crew.

Maroon Peak (near Aspen, CO):

The iconic Maroon Bells are one of Colorado's most well-known destinations. CFI completed a new, sustainable route on North Maroon Peak in 2012 and will continue with restoration in 2013, while shifting focus for construction to Maroon Peak. The Project Management team will consist of 2 CFI staff, occasionally joined by the North Maroon Peak Restoration Technician. The team will oversee the work of a youth corps crew, working a varied schedule of backcountry hitches ranging from approximately 4-10 days in length and may accommodate several volunteer groups. The primary work on this project will be construction of stone structures; staircases, check steps, retaining walls, etc. with some alpine restoration. Please include any relevant experience with rigging and stonework in your application materials.

San Luis Peak (near Creede/Gunnison, CO):

Remote San Luis Peak, located in the San Juan mountains, provides an isolated and tranquil experience relative to most 14er routes. A 2 person Project Management team will complete CFI's second year of work on San Luis. The

2013 crew will implement project work on the Cochetope approach and complete work on the Stewart Creek route. This project will necessitate a diverse skill set, as project work will vary, including restoration, new route construction, stone work, etc. CFI Project Management team will oversee the work of a 9 person youth corps crew, typically working a 9 on/5 off schedule.

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 8-12 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.
- 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:

- 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

The weekly work schedule will be variable (averaging 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 \$19.00/hr. depending on experience.

Benefits include \$16/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 **Friday, March 1, 2013**. 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 hiring@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 hiring@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 352
Golden, CO 80401**