

Volunteer Opportunity Description—Santa Fe National Forest



VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGER

...for the Espanola & Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts

What would I do?: Volunteer wilderness rangers perform a variety of important duties throughout the Pecos Wilderness and nearby adjoining trails. These duties include clearing the trail of trees with crosscut (two-person) saws, lopping and brushing the trail corridor to keep it open, talking with the public about Leave No Trace and answering questions, picking up trash at campsites and lakes, and overall being the eyes and ears for the trails.

This position may either be conducted on a daily basis or during overnight backcountry trips, depending on the distance from the trailhead. If you are chosen to be on the **Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District** ranger crew, you'll be expected to spend 15 nights in the field per month to ensure that enough time is spent clearing and attending to trails further from the trailheads.

On the **Espanola Ranger District** there is not a minimum number of nights required to be in the backcountry, but we ask that you spend enough time on extended/overnight backcountry trips to cover more mileage and clear trails that are not cleared as frequently as those trails closer to Santa Fe and Espanola.

Housing is available only for the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District Volunteer wilderness rangers. A field reimbursement per night out in the backcountry is offered at \$25/night for all wilderness rangers.

Please apply through volunteer.gov/gov to the related posting for Volunteer Wilderness Rangers. Contact Jennifer Sublett (jasublett@fs.fed.us) if you are a local resident and would like to be a wilderness ranger on the Espanola Ranger District.

Who may enjoy this opportunity?: Individuals with the right experience may include college students on summer break, teachers, people in between paid jobs, and retired people.

What qualifications do I need?:

- Extended backcountry camping with heavy backpack
- Adequate work boots and excellent rain gear or the ability to purchase it prior to the beginning of the season
- Great physical condition (be able to carry all personal gear, food, tools, etc. for up to 8 days in the backcountry)
- Previous experience with map and compass
- Good communication skills
- Willingness to follow procedures
- Ability to hike and perform trail duties at high elevations (no more than 13,000 feet)
- Ability to become First Aid/CPR and crosscut saw certified (if not already certified)
- Ability to spend 15 nights in the backcountry (Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District)

How often should I be in contact with the District Volunteer Coordinator during my time as a volunteer?:

The District Volunteer Coordinator will conduct the initial interview and reference checks. Then, the selected individuals will meet on the designated date with the District contact and possibly the District Volunteer Coordinator for a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger Training/Orientation. Gear and assignments will be issued at this point.

How much of a time commitment is this opportunity?: The Volunteer Wilderness Ranger program relies on the chosen individuals to help maintain the trails, pick up trash, talk with the public, etc. from approximately May to September. It is important that the volunteers spend as much time on the trails as possible and within reason to ensure District goals are met by the end of the season.

How would I benefit from this opportunity/?: Volunteering on the trails provides many benefits such as exercise, flexibility for your schedule, new skills learned, meeting new people, enjoying nature, and even improving your resume. Many people that volunteer say they use the trails and want to give back for future generations and help promote sustainable trails. For those looking for an internship, this opportunity can be designed to accommodate the requirements of the internship, as long as the core goals for the volunteer position are met.

Is there an interview/training?: Yes, the interview will take place over the phone and will be conducted by the District Volunteer Coordinator. Please be prepared to identify experiences in the backcountry, as well as work experience that would help demonstrate you are the best person for this opportunity. Three references are needed and should include supervisors, professors, and others that know the volunteer (please no family or friends).

A training/orientation will be provided upon arrival at the designated District. A volunteer agreement with an attached Job Hazard Analysis will be filled out and signed by the individual and then followed up for review and signature from the District Ranger.

What time of year is this opportunity offered?: Typically, this opportunity will span May to September. Snow is a factor at higher elevations and will determine where Volunteer Wilderness Rangers are able to conduct their duties on either side of the season. Please be flexible.

Are tools and equipment provided?: Yes, tools and camping gear will be provided.

Do I need CPR/First Aid training?: Yes, to be certified and use a crosscut saw, you will need to be CPR/First Aid certified. This training will be provided if you need it to become certified. An advanced class is recommended such as Wilderness First Air or higher, due to the nature of the volunteer position.

Whom do I contact for the opportunity?: This opportunity will be posted on [volunteer.gov/gov](https://www.volunteer.gov/gov) and prospective volunteers will need to submit an application through the website when the position is posted. Please contact Jennifer Sublett, District Volunteer Coordinator, at 505-753-7331 or jasublett@fs.fed.us.

Updated 12-17-12 by JAS