The U.S. Forest Service Resource Assistants Program (RAP) is a rigorous and immersive paid experience for U.S. citizens or permanent residents interested in natural and cultural resources careers who are at least 17 years old. Resource assistants are recruited by partner organizations and work under the direction of Forest Service staff to accomplish mission-critical work that develops leadership, critical thinking, and strategic communication skills. Through collaboration, coaching, and mentorship, resource assistants launch their careers and expand their understanding of our Nation’s natural and cultural resources and land management priorities. Students and/or graduates from institutions of higher education, especially minority-serving institutions, are strongly encouraged to apply to opportunities posted with our partner organizations.

Objectives

1. Expand and enhance the capacity of the Forest Service to accomplish mission-critical work and high priority projects

2. Promote workforce development of highly motivated candidates through internships under the coaching and mentorship of Forest Service Staff

3. Engender stewardship values in the next generation of natural and cultural resource management professionals through career exploration and professional development

4. Sustain our Nation’s forests and grasslands, deliver benefits to the public, apply knowledge globally, and excel as a high-performing agency

Partner Organizations

- Environmental Stewards
  www.stewardslegacy.org
- Greening Youth Foundation
  www.gyfoundation.org
- Hispanic Access Foundation
  www.hispanicaccess.orgs
- MobilizeGreen
  www.mobilizegreen.org
- Northwest Youth Corps
  www.nwyouthcorps.org
- Salish Kootenai College
  www.skctrees.org
- The Corps Network
  www.corpsnetwork.org

Benefits

- Stipend, health care, housing allowance
- Training and travel allowance
- Connect to Forest Service staff, partners, and stakeholders
- Direct hiring eligibility upon successful program completion