

Stream Assessment and Watershed Planning Educator (Community Educator)

General Responsibilities

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Community Educator works as a team member to develop educational materials and programs, and to coordinate outreach efforts that support stream stewardship objectives in the Ashokan Watershed. The Community Educator will work with project staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District and New York City Department of Environmental Protection to develop a variety of outreach materials and documents and deliver local educational programs in stream management planning and watershed protection for the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. The position represents the Stream Management Program before the public, community leaders, community organizations, and local government officials.

Program Development (10%)

- Identify gaps in information, services and other needs of local agencies/residents
- Carry out ongoing needs assessment with local staff, clientele, as directed by supervisor.
- Ensure content conforms to policies and objectives of the Association.

Program Delivery (75%)

- Under the direction of the Issue Leader, help develop an Ashokan Watershed plan and develop stream corridor management plans based on assessment data collected by field staff.
- Provide assistance to field staff in collecting data to support stream management planning efforts.
- Serve as a liaison and connection with community organizations surrounding Stream Management planning efforts in the Ashokan Watershed.
- Serve as a subject-matter resource to the staff and clientele as they are identified
- Plan the delivery of established short- and long-range educational programs based upon the Project's plan-of-work.
- Draw upon local program resources and recommendations and coordinate activities with the Issue Leader in order to address clientele needs and to select program materials.
- Conduct educational programs and develop written materials to impact audiences through a variety of delivery methods.
- Consult with project staff and supervisor-to obtain specialized assistance in delivering technical programs and materials.
- Participate in mass media efforts related to program.
- Involve, utilize, inform, and advise volunteers serving on program advisory committees.
- Identify and structure programs and outreach tools that address community and individual needs and that consider the diversity of the community.
- Analyze and evaluate programs and make suggestions to supervisor for improving impact upon the community and agencies.
- Develop and maintain regular, ongoing communications pathways using internet, mail and phone to bring people together.

Program Management and Evaluation (5%)

- Assist supervisor in administrative and program management activities, as assigned.
- Provide input to supervisor and Association Program Committee in preparing and submitting proposals to secure additional funding and in completing grant reporting requirements.
- Analyze and evaluate programs and make recommendations to the supervisor for strengthening and improving programs.

Communications, Reporting, Image Building (5%)

- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with local community groups, and organizations; keep these groups informed of extension programs, opportunities and direction.
- Assure good marketing strategies are used in the planning and promotion of programs, and in the generation of an appropriate public image.

Professional Development (5%)

- Participate in required orientation programs.
- Attend relevant in-service education programs as appropriate to program area(s).
- Jointly develop and pursue a professional improvement plan, in cooperation with the supervisor, to increase competency in position responsibilities.

Reporting Relationships

- Report to and receive close supervision and guidance from the appropriate Issue Leader.
- May coordinate or supervise the work of interns.

Degree and Experience Requirements

- Bachelor of Arts or Science degree appropriate to the responsibilities of the position, Masters Degree preferred.
- Minimum of 1 year experience required in technical communications/writing.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Excellent writing skills. Must have demonstrated experience and competency in organizing and communicating technical information in writing.
- Highly competent with GIS applications (ARC/Info).
- Knowledge of stream systems and riparian habitats. Coursework or field experience in geology, soils, limnology, agricultural engineering, or planning.
- Demonstrated willingness and ability to engage in field work. Physical ability to work in Catskill Mountain streams.
- Knowledge of statewide and/or national initiatives and resources related to watershed protection.

- Ability to communicate effectively through oral, written, and visual channels using traditional educational tools as well as innovative applications of electronic technology (e.g., video, audio, internet, etc.). Must have some knowledge of html and ability to communicate through internet-based programs.
- Ability to initiate, plan, organize, implement, teach, and evaluate informal educational programs and outreach activities.
- Ability to relate effectively to co-workers, advisors, community and professional leaders, agencies and clientele groups.
- Ability to work effectively with people of varying ages and socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.
- Familiarity with a variety of program delivery methods to reach individuals and groups.
- Ability to identify and develop volunteer leadership.