Position Description

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<th>Position Number: 5</th>
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<td>Position Title: Hiking Trail Report Writer</td>
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<td>Location: Amherst, MA</td>
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<td>Duration: June 6 – August 19, 2022</td>
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THIS POSITION IS UNPAID

Brief Description of Internship Position:
The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Universal Access Program (UAP) provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts state parks for visitors of all abilities.

This UAP project will support independent access to hiking trails for park visitors with disabilities at DCR properties across the state. The hiking trail report writer will work in the field to gather information on trail conditions, supported in the field by UAP staff as needed. The report writer will then independently write detailed descriptions of hiking trails, including photographs that convey trail conditions and capture the trail experience. Reports will provide as much detailed information about a trail as possible, so that hikers can make an informed decision about which trails best meet their interests, abilities, and desired experience. Finished reports will be published on the UAP website and DCR park websites.

Description of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Travel to trails with UAP staff
- Use provided equipment (measuring tape, measuring wheel, smart level, iPad mini) to take measurements and document trail conditions
- Gather information/details about trail features and amenities (length, width, surface type, slope, obstacles, places to rest, landmarks, accessible bathrooms, cellphone reception, interpretive resources, etc.)
- Take photographs of trails, trail conditions, and trail amenities that are intended for publication
- Write detailed and engaging trail descriptions that include access information but also capture the trail experience and “feel” of the trail

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

- Excellent writing skills, with the ability to write engaging and appealing descriptions
- Good photography skills, with the ability to take good quality photos that capture trail conditions
- Experience hiking/recreating outdoors
- Ability to work closely with UAP staff in the field
- Ability to work independently on report writing
- Strong communication skills
- Well organized and attentive to details

Hours per week: 10-20

Other relevant information:
No familiarity or prior experience with accessibility regulations is required.
Candidates with a disability are strongly encouraged to apply. This position requires travel across the Commonwealth, in a wheelchair-accessible vehicle driven by DCR staff.
About half of the time will be spent in the field and the other half in the office. For examples of similar trail reports, visit https://everyoneoutdoors.blogspot.com/p/covid-era-trail-recommendations.html, https://disabledhikers.com/, and https://www.accesstrails.org/overview/home/index.html