## Job Opening: Forestry and Grounds Apprentice

Job Title: Forestry and Grounds Apprentice

Type: Full time, seasonal, non-exempt, hourly

Location: Philo Ridge Farm, Charlotte, Vermont

Our Culture

Philo Ridge Farm is a 400-acre historic farm that brings together the rich cultural past of the region to develop the local agricultural economy and respect the ecosystem. We strive to be a beautiful, functional farm at the forefront of research, innovation, and conversation around our food. The property is used for a mixture of activities and operations including: mixed vegetable production, flowers, orchards, sheep, chickens, cattle, horses, haying, and pigs. We believe in treating our farm team, animals, and the soil with respect and care. All of our employees embody the spirit of sharing, growing together and education.

Position Overview

With guidance from staff, the apprentice will be responsible for executing sections of an agroforestry program to manage the forests as well as woody areas dispersed throughout the property. The candidate will carry out tree plantings across the farm, create tree-lined avenues and wind-blocks, and work with farm staff on grounds-keeping projects and tasks. The apprentice will maintain new plantings through watering and fertility as well as monitoring the health of the stock and document and map plantings. The apprentice will start a native plant nursery on the property where we plan to grow native plants for research and restoration efforts in the region. With guidance, the candidate will also work to increase the productivity of several pastures by integrating hard wood trees to shade livestock, accumulate nutrients, and produce more browse for the livestock operation. The position will also work the farm team on trail maintenance and improving existing trails by removing downed branches and undesirable plants from trail edges.

Primary Responsibilities

* Manage establishment of new plantings across the farm property
* Removing invasive trees and shrubs and replanting with native varieties
* As time permits, assist with various landscaping and farming projects such as vegetable production and livestock management and haying
* Assist farm team members in gardening and irrigation, building projects and general maintenance and upkeep
* Trail maintenance

Candidate/ Position Qualifications

* Willingness to work outdoors in adverse weather conditions
* Ability to lift heavy objects and remain physically active throughout the day
* Working toward an Associate's or Bachelor's degree in agriculture, forestry, wildlife or park management or similar field is a plus
* Experience with irrigation and watering
* Excellent verbal and written communication skills
* Landscaping tools and equipment experience a plus, but can train on site
* Computer, data entry and reporting skills
* Clean driving record and valid driver license
* Minimum 2 references

Compensation

Compensation will be $11-14 per hour, depending on experience.

Application Process

Candidates should send a cover letter illustrating experience, resume, available start date, contact information, and reference contact information to jobs@philoridgefarm.com. Qualified candidates will be contacted directly. No phone calls please.