

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position is responsible for the coordination and implementation of field work and educational programs and activities designed to preserve natural resources. In addition, the work also requires initiatives to bring awareness to environmental protection and conservation related efforts. The work is performed under the direct supervision of a higher-level administrator and in accordance with guidelines established by the Environmental Management Council, Soil and Water Conservation District and Water Quality Coordinating Committee. Work guidance (e.g., lead work) may be provided to others including seasonal and volunteer field staff. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Coordinates and leads a variety of educational and recreational programs and activities designed to increase awareness of natural resource conservation practices and environmental issues;

Coordinates and trains volunteers to participate in community science programs (e.g., the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation American eel project at Minisceongo Creek, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Water Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE), Storm Drain Marking, the Great Backyard Bird Count and others as they are developed), reviews data collected and performs quality assurance tasks;

Assists in a wide variety of water quality, erosion control and field work programs;

Acts as a liaison with local school districts and community groups to provide education and awareness of environmental education programs, and prepares lesson plans and environmental education activities for students;

Provides technical assistance to Division of Environmental Resources staff;

Prepares articles and/or press releases to promote water quality improvement projects and programs to news media and/or newsletters published by other environmental conservation related organizations;

Creates and posts content to the department's social media pages;

Develops promotional materials by creating fliers, brochures and other documents;

Prepares a variety of written information including soil group worksheets;

Promotes community participation in programs designed to protect air, water and land from projects which could cause contamination and/or pollution;

Represents the Department of Environmental Resources and the Soil and Water Conservation District at events (i.e., Earth Day, YouthFest);

Maintains records in accordance with program requirements.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Working knowledge of the New York State DEC environmental programs (e.g. WAVE, American eel project, I Fish NY, etc.); working knowledge of Soil and Water Conservation District programs and partners (e.g. Agriculture and Markets, Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)); working knowledge of the principles and practices of natural resource conservation, including the areas of soil and water conservation*; working knowledge of community resource development and ecological and environmental issues*; working knowledge of laws, rules and regulations applicable to resource and environmental conservation, including those that pertain to soil and water*; ability to organize and direct the work of volunteers; ability to present educational information to individuals and groups; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to prepare a variety of educational materials, lesson plans and written material; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with others; ability to understand and interpret written material.

(over)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelor's degree or higher in Environmental Science, or comparable curriculum and one (1) year of work experience in environmental science based educational programs, workshops and/or field activities.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid driver's license.

*To be demonstrated during the probationary period.