

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:  
Appalachian Trail Visitor Use Study  
Field Interviewer (2 positions)**

In collaboration with the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service and The University of Georgia, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is working with and managing the field interviewing component of the Appalachian Trail Visitor Use Study. The purpose of this study is to design and test a statistically valid, reliable, and uniform method of collecting and reporting visitor use data along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The field interviewing component of the study will run from May 30 to August 15, 2007.

Two paid field Interviewers will interview hikers on pre-selected dates and at pre-selected exit sites in the study area of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). This 109 mile section runs from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, to the Scott Farm, north of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. The positions will involve a great deal of travel within the study area, and various housing opportunities will be available. Mileage reimbursement will be provided for study related transportation.

Interviewers will operate individually following prescribed methods during the 75 day sampling calendar. Predetermined interview days will include some weekdays, most weekends, and some holidays.

Required Skills

- Proven ability to work alone with minimal supervision
- Excellent communication and planning skills
- Ability to interact positively with the public and others
- Ability to follow directions

Other Helpful Skills

- Knowledge of the Appalachian Trail
- Commitment to Trail and resource protection efforts
- Knowledge of Leave-No-Trace principals
- Training in natural-resource management or a related field

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Understanding the interview process and the importance of the information collected.
- Being able to work independently outdoors in all types of weather conditions.

- Maintaining an approachable, polite, and professional attitude and appearance when communicating with the public.
- Reading and using topographic, transportation, and forest maps. Incumbent will determine the best route to exit sites.
- Maintaining a general knowledge of operational policies and resources in associated exit site management areas (State Parks & Forests, National Historical Sites, etc.).
- Arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the interview day at interview sites regardless of area activity level or weather conditions.
- Remaining flexible when conditions necessitate adjustments to maintain the sampling schedule.
- Safely operating a vehicle on rough, undeveloped forest roads.
- Working closely with other Field Interviewers, including volunteers, to efficiently coordinate transportation and logistical needs.
- Interviewing last exiting hikers based on an exact reading of the Interview questionnaire.
- Following all quality control and assurance measures so that information is complete and accurate.
- Remaining neutral and tactful while interviewing, and not showing personal reactions to visitor answers.
- Pre-planning to mitigate potential issues that would negatively affect field sampling, including but not limited to: weather conditions, transportation, meals, scheduling conflicts, bugs, standing for long periods of time, lack of materials, unfamiliarity with site location, etc.
- Maintaining regular contact with field supervisors, the project manager and agency cooperators.

If you have questions regarding the Field Interviewer position, contact the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office Associate Representative Bob Sickley, [bsickley@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:bsickley@appalachiantrail.org) , or the A.T. Visitor Use Study Manager, [mattowens@warnell.uga.edu](mailto:mattowens@warnell.uga.edu).

To apply for the Field Interviewer position, send an electronic or hardcopy resume postmarked no later than **May 11, 2007**, to:

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