

# Schuylkill River Heritage Area Summer Watershed Fellow Job Description

## Overview:

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is working with other local environmental centers in an effort to build a network focused on constituency building and stewardship of the Delaware River Watershed. This network of 23 environmental centers, spread across the Delaware River watershed, is interconnected by The Circuit, which is a regional trail network of multi-use bike/pedestrian trails and waterways (rivers, streams, creeks.) The Centers network seeks to hire 23 young people (one at each center,) for a 12-week summer fellowship designed to advance our collective impact across the watershed. This program will foster watershed stewardship by establishing a team of ambassadors and building capacity for a network of centers.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is a national and state Heritage Area that celebrates the Schuylkill River watershed as one of America's most significant cultural, historical and industrial regions. The boundaries of the Heritage Area cover the Schuylkill River watershed in Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. This region is nationally significant for the role that its people, places, and events played in the American, Industrial, and Environmental Revolutions. The Heritage Area is home to over 3.2 million people across five counties. Approximately 1.5 million people draw their drinking water directly from the River. The mission of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area is to connect residents, visitors and communities to the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Trail by serving as a catalyst for civic engagement and economic development in order to foster stewardship of the watershed and its heritage

## Position Summary:

The Fellow will serve as an ambassador for the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the Delaware River watershed by engaging our watershed community, emphasizing the importance of watershed stewardship and helping the Heritage Area reach and engage new and underserved audiences. By the end of the 12 weeks of service, Fellows will have become local watershed experts and ambassadors to their community and will have introduced many new people to their local trails and waterways, as well as the steps they can take to help restore and protect the Delaware River Watershed.

**Position Location: The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is located at 140 College Dr., Pottstown, PA 19464.**

## Schuylkill River Heritage Area specific tasks:

- Establish and carry out water quality monitoring and Schuylkill River Water Trail engagement programs
- Work with Montgomery County Community College faculty to develop a water quality monitoring program for students
- Create a survey that can be posted at water trail landings to gauge attitudes and numbers of people recreating on and along the river (fishing, paddling, etc.)
- Visit water trail landings on periodic weekends to conduct surveys
- Work with National Park Service rangers to organize an evening program with a focus on conservation and the local national parks
- Assist with the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center and the Bike Pottstown program on periodic weekends.
- Support other regional events that connect to the SRHA mission, including tabling and handing out literature.

## Duties for all Watershed Fellows:

- Engage target communities in the Schuylkill River Watershed and Delaware watershed through stewardship, education, recreation and civic engagement.

- Participate in a 3-day Watershed Stewardship Training at Pocono Environmental Education Center (overnight, June 14-16.) <http://www.peec.org/>
- Complete a required Capstone project to be presented at the end of season Watershed Fellowship Summit, August 18. This individual project should help enhance network goals, deepen the connection and engagement of trail and water users and expand watershed protection and restoration.
- Fellows will be expected to participate in regular online interaction with the other Watershed Fellows through an online discussion platform.
- Fellows will be required to visit at least two other Environmental Centers in the network in order to gain a more complete understanding of the Delaware River watershed.

**Qualifications and Experience:**

- Age 18-24 by June 5 start date.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; superior interpersonal skills with a demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity also necessary.
- Comfortable working outdoors
- Must be people oriented, have a team-focused attitude, and the ability to professionally represent the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and the network to the public.
- A positive attitude and good sense of humor, as well as comfort working independently as a leader and part of a team, when needed.
- Ability to work in a dynamic fast-paced environment and juggle multiple, changing priorities; strong time and project management skills needed. Must be self-motivated and willing to work in a flexible, non-structured environment.
- The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is dedicated to building a culturally diverse organization and strongly encourages applications from minorities and women.
- Occasional evening and weekend hours required
- Valid state driver's license required or proficient with public transportation
- Able to lead walks/hikes through varied terrain, comfortable in a canoe or kayak.

**Essential dates**

- June 5: Fellows start date at Schuylkill River Heritage Area
- June 14 - 16: Required Watershed Stewardship Training (overnight) at Pocono Environmental Education Center. (Food and accommodations provided.)
- August 18: Watershed Fellowship Summit at John Heinz NWR, Philadelphia.
- August 25: Last day of Fellowship

**Compensation:** This position pays \$12/hr. Fellows will serve 35-40 hrs./week for 12 weeks.

**How to apply:**

Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Laura Catalano  
 Communications Director  
 Schuylkill River Heritage Area  
 140 College Dr.  
 Pottstown, PA 19464  
[lcatalano@schuylkillriver.org](mailto:lcatalano@schuylkillriver.org)  
 484-945-0200

**Application Deadline:** March 30, 2017