



NORTHWEST SERVICE ACADEMY

MT. ADAMS CENTER



Field Team  
Experience

● *“An Adventure in Environmental Service in the Pacific Northwest”* ●

# Program

## The Northwest Service Academy (NWSA)

The Mt. Adams Center (MAC) is looking for energetic and positive people to fill the ranks of its field team program. Are you seeking:

- To serve in the great outdoors while protecting and preserving the environment?
- To explore the natural treasures of the Pacific Northwest?
- To form friendships that will last a lifetime?

If so, the MAC has something to offer you.



The MAC Field Team program provides members the opportunity to serve on a variety of environmental restoration and educational projects throughout Washington and Oregon.

Teams tackle projects such as trail and bridge construction to enhance recreational access, planting trees and removing non-native species to improve wildlife and fish habitat and educating youth in and about the natural world.

There are two ways to serve in the Field Team Program: as a **Field Team Member** or as a **Field Team Leader**.

**Field Team Members** comprise the majority of the MAC positions. These positions require the ability to work well with others and to serve in all types of weather collaboratively with their teammates to accomplish project goals.

Many members have either just graduated from college or bring other relevant life experiences.

**Field Team Leaders** provide the leadership for the field teams. They work with MAC staff to handle project logistics, address team challenges and empower the field team members.

Most leaders have prior team/crew exposure, along with a college degree and/or related life experience.

# Location



From the Central Cascades of Bend to the coastal shores of the Olympic Peninsula, MAC field teams serve in some of the most beautiful places that Oregon and Washington have to offer. Whether your team is clearing trail through the volcanic ash of Mt. Saint Helens or planting trees along a tributary of the Columbia River, rest assured that the landscape will remain indelibly impressed upon your mind for years to come. In fact, be advised that it might cause you to rethink future plans that take you away from this place.

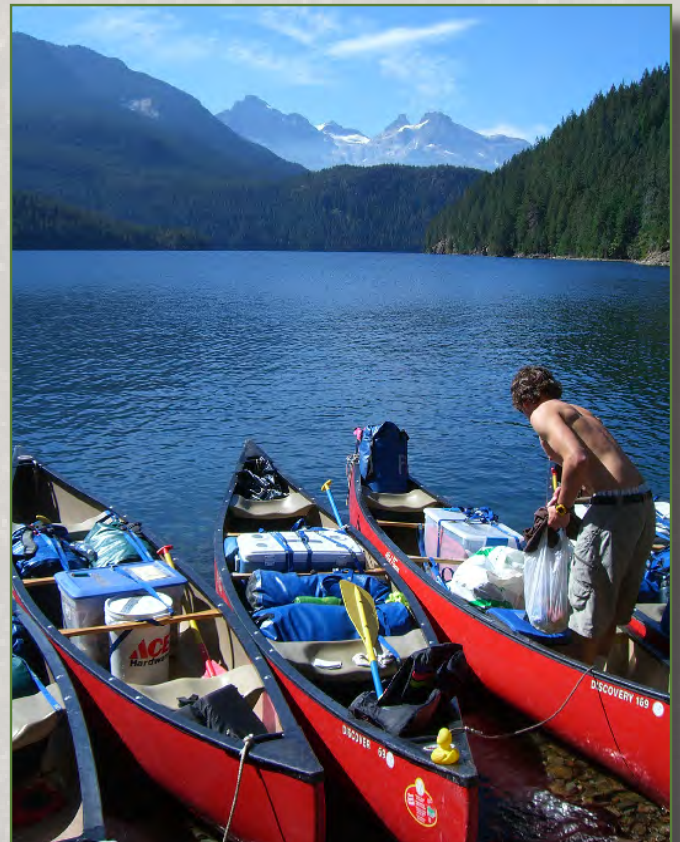
# Outdoor Opportunity

Location, Location, Location! The magic of the Pacific Northwest lies in the welcoming people and awe inspiring places that pull at the heart of every resident and visitor alike. Inspired by this environment, MAC participants seek out recreational opportunities that allow them to explore the surrounding natural wonders by foot, bike, boat and car.

On any given day, you are likely to find someone preparing to summit Mt. Adams, bike the single track along the Cascade Crest or drop a paddle in the Wild and Scenic White Salmon River. So grab your gear and get ready for a season of outdoor adventures.

Not ready to tackle these outings alone? Don't worry. Not only will there be plenty of willing partners, but the MAC development program will help you learn the skills needed to recreate out-of-doors and, in doing so, develop a closer relationship with the natural world. Opportunities include:

- Five Day Natural History Trip
- Outdoor Living Skills
- Leave No Trace Training
- Natural World Exploration
- Regional Geological Issues
- Principles of Ecology



# Professional Development

The MAC realizes that it is only as good as the people who fill its ranks. That's why it spends up to twenty percent of its time training its participants. While one strand of the development program focuses on exploring the natural world, another seeks to provide you with the skills that you will use during your daily service. Trainings include:

## Hard skills:

- First Aid/CPR
- Wilderness Advanced First Aid (FT Leaders Only)
- Professional Driving & Trailing
- Leave No Trace Camping
- Tool Training
- Chainsaw Training (FT Leaders Only)
- Conservation and Restoration skills, such as
  - Trail Building and Maintenance
  - Bridge Building
  - Planting and Site Revegetation
  - Riparian Fence Building
  - Wildfire Fuels Reduction
  - Non-native Species Removal



## Soft Skills and Training in:

- Conflict Resolution
- Communication
- Diversity
- Teamwork and Group Development
- Sexual Harassment

The MAC believes so strongly in its development program that it guarantees not only will you leave this program a better person, but also more prepared to take the next step in your professional career. Take a look at what some of our alumni have done:

- **Executive Director of the Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group**
- **U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Technicians, Mt. Adams Ranger District**
- **Farm Director, Morning Star Farm, Orcas Island WA**
- **Undergraduate and graduate students at: Harvard University, Evergreen State College, Prescott College, Lewis and Clark College, Alaska Pacific University.**



# Community/Group Living

As one of the few residential service programs in the country, MAC members serve and live together. Many past participants claim that this arrangement is the most challenging, and yet most rewarding aspect of the program. Learning to make individual sacrifices for the betterment of the team is difficult, but in doing so participants build skills and friendships that last a lifetime.

While this is a team-focused experience, there is room for individuality. In fact, it enriches the experience. However, individuals need to arrive prepared to make compromises and address issues that affect the morale of their team. MAC participants learn firsthand how to address problems directly, expediently and effectively. In doing so, they build communication and conflict resolution skills that benefit them personally and professionally.



On the lighter side of things, the residential component ensures participants a season of laughter, joy and fun that can be found nowhere else. There is always a willing partner ready to play a game of volleyball, bike a stretch of single track, see a movie or even summit Mt. Adams. At the end of the season, people lament not that there was not enough to do, but rather there was too much to do in just one season.

The actual physical location of your residence varies with your project site. Some teams travel weekly to a new spike site, while others can spend the entire season at MAC or at another satellite base camp. Either way, your team becomes a community upon itself.

As a residential program, members share the living responsibilities. You prepare group meals, assume cleaning rotations and manage the Greenworks Program – recycling, composting and other light living techniques.

# Day In The Life

While no day is the same, some general patterns do exist. First and foremost, a service day is long and filled with strenuous physical and/or mental labor. Participants should be in above average physical condition. Even so, the first few weeks of service will exhaust even the fittest people.

Days begin early. Some teams start at 6:30 A.M.; others begin at 7:30. Either way, participants need to be able to function in the early hours. Over the course of the day, teams take a couple of short breaks and a 30 minute lunch. The service day ends between 5:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Throughout the season, teams will typically follow one of the following schedules:

- A five day schedule (Monday-Friday): 7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
- A four day schedule (Monday-Thursday): 6:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.
- A nine day schedule (Monday- following Tuesday): 7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

In addition to the service time, participants are also responsible for residential/spike chores such as meal preparation, kitchen clean up and other tasks that add on average an additional hour on to the beginning or end of the day.

### Reality:

The reality is that being placed in a new environment, with new people and new responsibilities is a challenge for anyone. You will experience frustrating moments as your team learns to live and work together. You will be limited by a minimal stipend that affords only the simplest of living. Your body will be physically and mentally exhausted by the service.

Yet, you will also experience moments of brilliance that will quickly ease all of your troubles. And each challenge that you work through makes you stronger and your relationships more profound.

And in the end, you leave a better person . . .



### Benefits:

The MAC guarantees that you will benefit from this experience. You will learn tangible skills, make lifelong friends and help shape the world that you want to live in. But if that is not enough, we also offer some simple economic incentives. Benefits vary depending on your term of service and are illustrated below:

Service Term	Living Stipend (gross)	Education Award	Room and Board	Health Insurance
1700 hours: Field Team Leaders	\$835 / mo after program fee (before taxes)	\$5,350	Yes	Yes
900 hours: Field Team Members	\$75 / wk after program fee (before taxes)	\$2,675	Yes	No