



Half-time
Homesteading &
Facilities Management
Graduate Assistant



Department: Parks, Conservation, and Recreational Therapy Department

Supervisor: Samantha Laurence, Manager of The Macoskey Center

Position: Half-time Homesteading & Facilities Management Graduate Assistant, Fall 2020

Deadline to Apply: Until Filled

Start Date: Monday, August 24th, 2020

End Date: Friday, December 11th, 2020 - with potential for continuation in position for Spring 2021 & Summer 2021

****Please note: If SRU is not open for in-person work this fall, then this position will transition into more of an education and interpretation role***

How to Apply: Please submit the following materials to samantha.laurence@sru.edu:

- SRU GA Employment Application found here:
<https://www.sru.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-assistantships>
- Cover Letter
- Resume

Position Description:

The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research is Slippery Rock University's campus hub for sustainability and environmental education. We are seeking an active and enthusiastic graduate student to join our leadership team to assist in helping us to maintain the facilities and homesteading aspects of our property. This position will also include opportunities to develop and deliver high quality and impactful sustainability education programming. The property features an 83-acre forested landscape with hiking trails, a permaculture garden demonstration site, an ecotherapy garden, chickens, a LEED-certified house with classroom and office space, and much more. We aim to create accessible and equitable opportunities for SRU students and community members to benefit from and learn about all that the site has to offer. We are seeking a highly motivated student with a positive attitude and teachable spirit who can make strong connections between the mission and scope of the Macoskey Center and their chosen field of study.

Mission/Vision of The Macoskey Center:

The Macoskey Center integrates campus and community resources to inspire and create an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable and just future. The MC achieves this vision through mutually beneficial partnerships with the broader community, hands-on

education for the whole person, and interdisciplinary research that integrates academic and community-based knowledge.

Job Functions/Responsibilities:

- Assist in recruiting, interviewing, hiring, training, supervising and scheduling student workers
- Manage care for chickens including egg collection, feeding, coop cleaning, and enrichment
- Maintain and manage the organically-grown Learning Garden including planting, weeding, harvesting and other gardening/landscaping spaces
- Track income and expenditures related to specific projects
- Assist with grounds and trail maintenance
- Perform general construction and maintenance activities at the RAMC including light carpentry and painting
- Write a monthly newsletter
- Attend, prepare, and staff The Macoskey Center on-campus farm stand
- Create, plan and teach education programs and presentations on sustainability, gardening, and the environment for both SRU and community groups following best practices in Environmental Education/Sustainability Education
- Work with the Sustainability Education Programming Graduate Assistant to learn programming processes, skills, knowledge, and best practices specific to The Macoskey Center and SRU
- Event planning and implementation
- Provide excellent customer service and public relations with visitors to The Macoskey Center and The Macoskey Center on-campus farm stand
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements:

- Clear background check from SRU Payroll System **BEFORE** start date
- Must meet eligibility standards of the graduate school including unconditional acceptance into a graduate program and a class load of 6 semester hours of graduate coursework
- Experience and/or pursuing a graduate degree in a field related to environmental education, parks & resource management, sustainability, and/or education
- Experience with lesson planning and teaching in informal and/or formal settings
- Availability on evenings and weekends, especially for special events
- Comfortable with public speaking and working with groups of all ages and sizes
- Seeks tangible opportunities to connect the responsibilities of this position to coursework requirements in the student's chosen field of study

- Arrives to work in a timely manner exhibiting professionalism, a positive attitude, flexibility, an ability to adapt to new challenges, strong interpersonal skills, and a desire to learn
- Committed to and passionate about the Mission/Vision of the MC

Desired Qualifications

- Knowledge of sustainable practices, gardening, agroforestry, and ecology
- Highly organized with attention to detail
- Ability to work autonomously or as a part of a collaborative team
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Professional work ethic and teachable spirit
- Experience supervising others
- Valid Driver's License

Student Outcomes:

- Gain experience in homesteading skills (i.e. chicken care, gardening, landscaping) and sustainability education/environmental education program development
- Foster skills in supervision and student mentorship
- Increase skills in complex project management and prioritization
- Gain experience working collaboratively with undergraduate students, SRU faculty and staff, and community members.
- Develop skills in visitor services and management

Benefits:

- Stipend of \$1000 for fall semester
- Tuition coverage for 6 credits
- Typical graduate assistantship provides pay for 8.75 hours/week at \$7.62/hr. However, The Macoskey Center will supplement assistantship with additional 13.75 hours/week at \$11/hr for fall semester. This is a total of 22.5 hours/week or 3 full days of work.
- A share of fresh, organically-grown produce from the Learning Garden during position duration
- Allowance of up to 5 days unpaid vacation time
- Various professional development opportunities including attendance to the Mother Earth News Fair & the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference
- One-on-one mentorship with Macoskey Center Manager

Appropriate SRU Majors:

- All majors welcome to apply

Questions? Please contact the Samantha (Sami) Laurence at (724) 974-0308 or samantha.laurence@sru.edu

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