



Lower Shore Stewardship Institute

Volunteer Position Description

Background: The Lower Shore Stewardship Institute (LSSI) is a program that melds local nonprofits and service-minded volunteers in the Lower Shore area. LSSI incorporates the staff and expertise of three partner organizations—the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance (NWA), the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT), and the Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET). While these organizations may serve populations in the same rough geographic area, they offer different volunteer opportunities and meet particular community needs. The Institute aims to educate and arm environmentally-minded adult volunteers in the region with the knowledge and tools needed to serve as volunteer leaders in their communities and at these organizations.

LSSI participants must complete at least 100 hours of service in the year following course completion. Participants will inventory their interests and skills as part of the application process and choose volunteer positions after the completion of the program that will provide the best fit between organization and participant.

Lower Shore Stewardship Institute Volunteer Responsibilities:

- Participating in orientation and program introduction on March 7, 2012.
- Attending courses on Wednesdays evenings (6:30-8:30 PM) and Saturdays (9:30AM-3:30PM) in the month of March and participating in service project at end of program.
- Committing to giving at least 100 hours of volunteer service within a year, which includes attending continuing education classes and events held by the Institute, as well as assisting with activities at any of the three organizations.
- Communicating with program facilitators to approve and track volunteer hours, to sign up for events, and to fulfill service requirements.

Training and Benefits: Partner staff and experts will train volunteers in land conservation and stewardship, Best Management Practices (BMPs), water quality issues and monitoring parameters, agricultural conservation practices, and other issues. Further, specialized training will be provided by partner hosts according to volunteer projects and roles.

Benefits include:

- Being involved with the oversight and protection of one's own watershed.
- Learning how to be a leader in environmental stewardship on the Lower Eastern Shore
- Participating in special events, dinners and outings that take place a few times during the year.
- Meeting new, like-minded people, spending time outside, and having fun.
- Receiving training in a number of volunteer positions.
- Building your resume with quality service experiences and with knowledge-based skills.
- Participating in service projects and roles.

Qualifications: No education or prior background in environmental stewardship is required. To become a Lower Shore Stewardship Institute graduate, participants must complete a [Lower Shore Stewardship Institute application](#). Volunteers must have an ability and willingness to learn new topics, show an interest in natural resources, have the time and energy to commit to serving 100 hours with any or all program partner organizations, have a reliable mode of transportation, and be able to read, write, and comprehend the information presented in the training sessions.

Supervisor: Beth Wasden, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

To Apply: Complete a LSSI application (found online at www.nanticokeriver.org); call Beth Wasden at 443.944.1175 or email at bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org to be mailed an application.