POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Field Organizer, Poplar Creek
Reports to Advocacy and Engagement Director
Open until filled
Salary: $20/hour
20 hours per week (part-time)

Organization:
Mission: We unite people to protect, promote, and care for the forest preserves in Cook County.

Our community advocates for the responsible management of the nearly 70,000 acres of forest preserves in Cook County through advocacy and engagement and stewardship of the land. Some of the best natural areas in Illinois are right here in Cook County, right outside your urban backdoor. Join our team and help us ensure they are here for the next 100 years.

Operating Budget: $3,200,000

Summary: Friends of the Forest Preserves seeks a Field Organizer to support and grow the Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards volunteer community in northwest Cook County. Successful candidates will possess a high level of emotional intelligence and excel in communication and interpersonal skills.

Responsibilities: In collaboration with partner organizations including the Forest Preserves of Cook County and Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards:

- Recruit volunteers to engage in hands-on ecological stewardship activities (brush cutting, seed collecting, weed control, etc.) by building strong relationships with individuals and groups in targeted communities
- Develop strategies to overcome community-specific barriers to participation in the volunteer program
- Conduct in-person outreach and create engaging digital and printed communications
- Coordinate volunteer enrichment and recruitment events (e.g. kickoff events, trainings, bird walks, nature hikes, paddling events, monitoring, public presentations, and social gatherings)
- Assist in mentoring individuals up the “ladder of leadership,” by which volunteers gain knowledge and skills and assume greater levels of responsibility and leadership
- Contribute to the growth and development of Friends’ volunteer engagement team

Required Qualifications:
- Bachelor’s degree or comparable experience
- Extensive experience in community organizing, volunteer management, and/or environmental education
- Demonstrated experience working in partnership with grassroots organizations and/or government agencies
- Strong grasp of concepts in ecology and biodiversity conservation
Required Qualifications (continued):
- Confidence and cultural competence to work across communities encompassing diversity in race, income, educational level, and age
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Positive, encouraging approach to identifying and lifting up the strengths of others
- Ability to work independently and as a team
- Excellent time management skills
- Valid driver’s license and access to vehicle
- Regular availability on evenings and weekends
- Flexible schedule
- Ability to lift and move heavy objects (50 pounds) and to work outside in inclement weather and extreme temperatures
- Familiarity with communities in the northwest region of Cook County, such as Streamwood, Elgin, Schaumberg, Hoffman Estates, and others

Beneficial Skills/Qualifications:
- Familiarity with local forest preserves, flora, and fauna
- Knowledge of the practice of restoration ecology for prairie, savanna, and woodlands
- Current Illinois Herbicide Applicator license, First Aid and CPR certifications or ability to acquire these before program start

Benefits
- Flexible schedule
- Five paid sick days per year
- Seven paid holidays/personal days per year

For more information and to apply: Please NO calls, faxes, office visits, or emails (other than emails presenting resume and cover letter). Send cover letter, resume, and two references to Radhika Miraglia, Advocacy and Engagement Director, radhika@fotfp.org.

Women, minorities, and seniors are strongly encouraged to apply. Friends of the Forest Preserves is an equal opportunity employer that considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or sexual orientation (in addition to observing all legal protection of special status). Friends is an equal opportunity employer promoting diversity in the environmental community.