

# Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Position Description – *Native Plant Horticulture Internshi* *(San Fernando Valley Resident)*



## **Position and Program Introduction**

Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO Fund) has received funding from the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society to work with one part-time native plant horticulture intern from the San Fernando Valley. This unique internship will allow the participant to gain valuable hands-on native plant horticultural experience in and around the Santa Monica Mountains. The internship will consist of 2 days (16-20 hours) of work a week, beginning in April 2024 and going through September 2024, with a daily stipend rate of \$120. Most or all of the work days will take place Thursdays, Fridays and/ or Saturdays, with some flexibility. The internship and intern will focus on:

- The basics and intermediate methods and concepts of running a native plant restoration nursery
- Learning about and practicing native plant propagation (cuttings, divisions, seed treatment and sowing) at the Rancho Sierra Vista native plant nursery in Newbury Park
- Joining seed scouting and seed collecting crews in the Santa Monica Mountains
- Assisting in seed cleaning and seed germination trials
- Attending various native plant horticulture workshops and classes, including landscape maintenance classes, plant propagation classes, etc
- Aiding in native plant giveaways and other outreach events with the public
- On occasion, assisting the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society with projects and workshops
- Joining, if time allows, work days in the herbarium, seed germination trials area, restoration plots and seed farm locations

Experience with California native plants is not necessary, but a strong desire to learn about native plant landscaping, horticulture, propagation and restoration techniques is preferred. Candidates must reside in the San Fernando Valley. The ideal candidate will be able to work alone or with a group of co-workers, interns and other native plant enthusiasts to accomplish multiple goals.

## **Physical Demands and Work Environment**

Tasks vary in physical demands and require that the intern be in good physical condition and be willing to hike and work outdoors in uneven terrain. The intern may encounter insects, snakes and poisonous plants in the field and/ or nursery. In addition, field and nursery conditions may be hot, cold and/ or wet. The intern may be required to hike long distances (sometimes 3 miles or more) while carrying backpacks and supplies (up to 20 lbs.). Tasks may require the intern to stand, bend, stoop or kneel for extended periods of time. Heavier lifting

(up to 50 lbs.) may be required in various settings. Safety training appropriate to duties and environment will be provided.

### **Knowledge and Skills Required**

A valid driver's license is required. The intern will be required to drive government vehicles, including occasionally in off road conditions. The intern is expected to follow safety protocols and carry out work using the specific methods and techniques presented to them by project leads. Previous native plant nursery, landscaping or restoration experience is not required. The intern should be comfortable working with volunteers, other interns and co-workers of various ages and skill-levels. Previous mapping experience, including the use of Google Earth, ArcGIS and various GPS units are all appreciated but not necessary. Much of the internship work will occur in a team environment, while some will be independent.

### **Training Required**

NPS will provide training in the following:

- Field Safety and Orientation (extreme weather, hazardous plants and animals)
- Radio Communications
- Driver's Training

### **Benefits**

The intern will gain valuable skills and experience in a variety of nursery, landscaping, herbarium and seed program operations and settings. The intern will receive multiple safety training and orientations to perform their duties safely and properly. Additionally, the intern may be offered ancillary courses and training, special wildlife encounters, park tours and off-site field trips to broaden their knowledge and enhance their experience. This position is offered a stipend of \$120 a day (8 to 10 hours a day, depending on field work), payable once a month. No other benefits are offered through this position.

### **How to Apply**

Applications will be accepted from January 24th, 2024 to March 15th, 2024, or until the position is filled. Interviews will be conducted beginning in February, on a rolling basis, until the position is filled. To apply, please submit the following to [antoniosanchez@samofund.org](mailto:antoniosanchez@samofund.org) :

- Letter of intent (how you found out about the position, your interest in joining this type of work, and how this position will benefit your career moving forward, etc.)
- Resume
- Three professional references

For additional questions contact [antoniosanchez@samofund.org](mailto:antoniosanchez@samofund.org) .

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