

# Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



## Position Description –

### Native Milkweed and Monarch Project Technician (Biological Technician)

#### Position and Program Introduction

Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO Fund) has received funding to hire 2 seasonal, part-time project technicians to aid with the planning, implementation and maintenance of an ambitious new native milkweed and Monarch butterfly project in and around the Santa Monica Mountains. Employment will consist of 24 hours of work a week, beginning in April or May, 2024 and going through November or December, 2024, with an hourly pay rate of \$19.00. Most or all of the work days will take place Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, with some flexibility. The project and project technicians will focus on:

- Collecting and cleaning seed of the 3 species of native milkweeds found in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
- Propagating over 50,000 *Asclepias fascicularis* (Narrowleaf Milkweed) seedlings a year
- Distributing Narrowleaf Milkweed seedlings to over 1,000 households, community gardens and other groups in the Ventura and Los Angeles County Area
- Organizing and helping to lead classes and gatherings to educate the public about the benefits of using local milkweed and other native plants
- Restoring 75 acres of local Monarch habitat, including the planting of 50,000 Narrowleaf Milkweed seedlings into restoration areas
- Documenting and accessioning plant populations, plant giveaways and restored areas

Experience with California native plants is not necessary, but preferred. 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.

#### Major Duties

- Work with senior staff to plan out and participate in occasional seed scouting and seed collecting trips in the Santa Monica Mountains
- Help carry out the timely cleaning and storage of seed collections
- With guidance, sow, grow and maintain tens of thousands of Narrowleaf Milkweed seedlings
- Participate in various community outreach events, including public workshops, plant deliveries and occasional giveaways of milkweed plants
- Install milkweed seedlings and other select native plants into restoration sites
- Aid in the weeding, watering, spraying and maintenance of various restoration sites

#### Physical Demands and Work Environment

Tasks vary in physical demands and require that the project technician be in good physical condition and be willing to hike and work outdoors in uneven terrain. The project technician 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 project technician 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 project technician 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 project technician will be required to drive government vehicles, including in off road conditions. The project technician 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 or restoration experience is preferred, but not required. The project technician should be comfortable working with volunteers, interns and co-workers of various ages and skill-levels. Previous mapping experience, including the use of Google Earth, ArcGIS and various GPS units is appreciated. The project technician should be detail-oriented, organized and resourceful, as well as personable. Most 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 project technician will gain valuable skills and experience in a variety of nursery, herbarium and seed program operations and management responsibilities. The project technician will receive multiple safety training and orientations to perform their duties safely and properly. Additionally, the project technician 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 paid at a rate of \$19.00 an hour. No other benefits are offered through this position.

### **How to Apply**

Applications will be accepted from January 24th, 2024 to April 15th, 2024, or until the positions are filled. Interviews will be conducted beginning in February, on a rolling basis, until positions are 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) .

Updated: January 2024