

The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research



Trails & Habitat Management Intern Handshake Job #10538002

Department: The Macoskey Center for Sustainability Education & Research

Supervisor: Samantha (Sami) Bortz, Director

Position: Trails & Habitat Management Intern

**Please note that this is not for academic credit unless there is faculty advisor/supervisor approval*

Start Date: Week of Jan. 19th/26th (1st 2 weeks of the spring 2026 semester)

End Date: If work is satisfactory, it is preferred that this position be held until the student graduates SRU including the summer semesters! Preference will be given to students who can work through summer 2026. Summer work schedule is 22.5 hours/week (i.e. 3 days of 7.5 hrs).

How to Apply: Please submit the following materials via Handshake!

- 3 Professional References (include contact information and relationship to you & include at least 1 faculty member)
- Resume (include GPA and expected graduation date)
- Cover Letter (Optional)

Position Description: We are seeking a sustainability-minded and enthusiastic student to join our team and assist in helping to maintain our trail systems, habitat management areas, facilities, landscaped areas, chickens/quail, and more!

About the MC: The Macoskey Center (MC) is a 70-acre sustainability education, demonstration, and research center at Slippery Rock University. The MC was founded in 1990 by Dr. Robert A. Macoskey and the ALTER Project. The property features hiking trails, gardens, a greenhouse, chickens, quail, a LEED-certified house with classroom and office space, a barn, and much more!

Mission/Vision of The Macoskey Center:

The Macoskey Center aims to inspire and create a more just and sustainable future. We achieve this through:

1. ***Education*** to equip people from all walks of life with sustainability skills, values, and knowledge.
2. ***Demonstration*** to inspire others through the sustainable management of our 70-acre homestead.
3. ***Research*** to advance sustainability knowledge and provide learning opportunities for SRU and the larger community.

We define sustainability as...

1. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2. The integration of social, environmental, economic, and cultural systems to create thriving, inclusive, diverse, and resilient communities.

Job Responsibilities:

- Trail maintenance projects involving light carpentry work, weed whacking/mowing trails, overhanging & low branch removal, and invasive species removal
- Kiosk/map box/bluebird box physical maintenance
- Collecting data and monitoring bluebird nestboxes for Project Nestwatch
- Support the planning and maintenance of the organically managed Learning Garden, including planting, weeding, and harvesting
- Assist with the implementation of the MC's Forest Management plan
- Assist with general construction and maintenance activities including light carpentry and painting
- Help to maintain all landscaped areas including the weekly mowing tasks (when seasonally appropriate)
- Help with chicken and quail care including egg collection, feeding, coop cleaning, and enrichment
- Participate in weekly and daily tasks for the maintenance and upkeep of the MC
- Interacting in a positive, informative, and professional manner with visitors, volunteers, and other MC staff
- Helping to promote MC initiatives on various social media platforms
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements & Preferred Qualifications:

- Clear background check from SRU Payroll System **BEFORE** the start date
- Enrolled as an undergraduate student at Slippery Rock University
- Ability to work 8-10 hrs/week during the fall and spring semesters during the MC's open hours (M-F 9am-5pm)
- Ability to work 22.5 hrs/week during summer semester
- Strong preference is given to candidates who would be able to continue working through Fall 2026 & Spring 2027
- Carpentry experience preferred
- Willingness to mostly work outdoors and in inclement weather
- Strong preference is given to candidates with trail maintenance and landscaping equipment experience
- Team-oriented and strong interpersonal skills
- Willingness to be flexible and adapt to new challenges
- Demonstration of basic professionalism, including timeliness, clear and respectful communication, and willingness to adhere to MC Student Employee Manual Policies
- Committed to and passionate about the Mission/Vision of The Macoskey Center

Benefits:

- 8-10 hrs/week paid position during spring & fall semesters at \$10/hr. During the summer semester, 22.5 hrs/week paid position at \$10/hr
- A share of fresh, organically-grown produce from the Learning Garden during position duration and when seasonally available.

- Allowance of up to 3 days excused absences (fall, spring, & summer)
- Various professional development opportunities
- One-on-one mentorship & independent project skills development
- Opportunity to work closely with a professional forester and help to implement the MC's Habitat Management Plan

Application/Hiring Process Timeline & Directions:

- **DEADLINE TO APPLY: Sunday, January 4th by 11:59 pm**
 - Please submit the following materials via Handshake!
 - 3 Professional References (include contact information and relationship to you & include at least 1 faculty member)
 - Resume (include GPA and expected graduation date)
 - Cover Letter (Optional)
- **Notification of Interviews will be sent by Friday, January 9th by 5:00 pm**
- **Interview sign-ups are due on Sunday, January 11th by 11:59pm**
- **Interviews to be conducted the week of January 12th**
- **Hiring decisions sent by Friday, January 16th by 5:00pm**
- **Position starts as soon as CLEARANCES are completed during the weeks of January 19th/26th (first 2 weeks of the Spring 2026 semester)**

Questions? Please contact Samantha (Sami) Bortz (The Macoskey Center Director) at samantha.bortz@sru.edu