



Urban Community Engagement Specialist

The National Wildlife Refuge Association seeks a full-time Urban Community Engagement Specialist to work in collaboration with the Lenape National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Since 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Wildlife Conservation Program (UWCP) has invested in communicating the importance of wildlife conservation to urban audiences. As a nonprofit partner to the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Wildlife Refuge Association works with urban wildlife refuges across the country to assist in community outreach, partnership development, communications, and fundraising efforts that build strong and resilient nature-based programs that serve urban communities beyond refuge borders.



The ultimate goal of the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program and the work of wildlife refuges within the Lenape complex is to create a connected conservation constituency and cultivate the next generation of conservationists and environmental leaders.

Description

The primary goal of this position will be to expand the reach and impact of the Lenape NWRC in Elizabeth, NJ and Yonkers, NY, and the surrounding metropolitan area. The Community Engagement Specialist will promote a culture of collaboration aimed at breaking down barriers to engage urban audiences in nature. Major tasks will be to work and communicate with refuge staff and existing partnerships to grow the reach of these organizations, build new and diverse community-based partnerships, and broaden support for wildlife conservation by providing opportunities to engage and connect diverse constituents with nature and inspire people of all ages to become stewards of the environment and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Supervision

This position is managed by NWRA. The Urban Community Engagement Specialist will work closely with refuge staff on day to day tasks and local goals, and will be expected to attend NWRA all-staff meetings and provide progress reports to the Urban Wildlife Refuge Program Director.

Responsibilities

- Work in close coordination with staff at Lenape NWRC to implement program priorities, promote and publicize achievements, identify partnership and fundraising opportunities, and assist in community outreach.
- Build and maintain good working relationships with current program partners, state and local elected officials, media outlets, community-based civic conservation, public health, youth-focused, and environmental justice organizations.
- Identify new funding and partnership opportunities with foundations, corporate partners, individual donors, and government agencies.
- Foster good internal communications with the refuge, the Refuge Association's Urban Wildlife Refuge Program Director, and other USFWS urban program regional staff and refuge leaders in the greater Northeast Region.
- Work with the Refuge Association's Urban Wildlife Refuge Program Director to identify experiences and lessons learned that can be shared with other urban refuges and help facilitate knowledge transfer through the Refuge Association's communications and outreach efforts.

Desired Qualifications

- High school diploma with coursework in biological or social sciences preferred, and minimum 4-6 years of experience in community outreach related to environmental issues, public relations, fundraising, or nonprofit administration with a relevant mission. Experience working in or with conservation corps, parks, recreation, or other sectors related to urban nature is ideal for this position.
- Experience and skill working with diverse communities in an urban setting, with experience in New York and/or New Jersey preferred.
- Experience writing grant narratives and reports (specifically NFWF and government grants), and a basic understanding of fundraising principles and best practices.
- Demonstrated experience with resolving differences between entities with diverse backgrounds and competing interests/priorities.
- Proven track record building innovative partnerships, setting and achieving program goals, monitoring outcomes and impacts, and coordinating local events.
- Proven success developing and implementing public relations, awareness, and outreach strategies, including the use of social media and virtual/online programs.

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, experience with public speaking strongly preferred.
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a small cross-sector team in a dynamic and creative environment with the ability to lead, motivate, and inspire others.
- A strong understanding of the diverse constituencies of New Jersey and New York, experience working with elected officials, and connections to conservation nonprofits is desired.
- Local candidates with fluency in English and Spanish will be given preference.
- Must be willing and able to travel extensively around northern New Jersey and the greater New York City metropolitan region and possibly beyond, and should be comfortable in the outdoors (both urban and backcountry.)
- Access to reliable transportation is required.

Location

NWRA employees are currently working remotely within their regions. The Specialist will spend time at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the partnership cities of Elizabeth, NJ and Yonkers, NY, and work remotely when not in the field. Exact schedules and duty locations will be determined by the Specialist, NWRA, and USFWS.

Compensation

Salary range is \$64,000-\$70,000 per year commensurate with experience. NWRA offers a competitive benefits package as well as paid sick leave, paid vacation, and paid holidays. Flexible schedules are permitted with approval by managers.

To Apply

Please submit a statement of interest, your resume, and contact information for at least three (3) professional references to nwrajobs@refugeassociation.org, with the subject line Urban Community Engagement Specialist - Northeast.

This position is open until filled.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association is a non-profit exclusively focused on protecting, promoting, and enhancing the 850-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest network of lands and waters set aside for wildlife conservation.