

Taos Land Trust
2026 Youth Conservation Corps
Forest Corps Crew Lead Job Description

Taos Land Trust empowers people to protect the land and traditions they love through education, advocacy and conservation. Our vision is to create a legacy of open, productive, and natural lands for future generations. Taos Land Trust (TLT) is an accredited member of the national Land Trust Alliance.

POSITION PURPOSE: The Forest Corps Crew Lead will oversee a diverse crew of participants between the ages of 16 and 18 in the safe, efficient completion of conservation, restoration, and outreach projects in the outdoors. Often working under minimal supervision, the Forest Corps Crew Lead must exercise discretion and judgment on matters relating to the safety, well-being, and performance of the field crew. The youth crew will mostly work on trails and tree removal projects at Rio Hondo Fishing Park and our new El Salto property. In addition to field work, the crew will participate in educational opportunities that range from learning about water rights and acequias in Northern New Mexico, water conservation and ecological restoration, sustainable agriculture, ArcGIS mapping, and identifying plant, animal, and bird species.

Field work overseen by the Forest Corps Crew Lead will involve invasive plant and tree removal, trail surveying and construction, and assisting with wetlands and river restoration and monitoring projects at Rio Fernando Park, Rio Hondo Fishing Park, and the El Salto property. Work will also include such tasks as acequia maintenance, tree pruning and planting, and agricultural crop care. Additional work may revolve around photo or video documentation, ecological monitoring and data gathering with input into ArcGIS. The Forest Corps Crew Lead will also facilitate regular group check-ins and teambuilding activities.

POSITION TYPE: Seasonal, Full-time, non-exempt

SCHEDULE: 40 hours per week, Monday – Friday

WAGE: \$20.50 per hour

REPORTS TO: YCC Project Lead and Taos Land Trust Associate Director

DATES: May 18 - November 13, 2026

LOCATION: Taos, NM – Most work to take place at Taos Land Trust properties: Rio Fernando Park at 410 La Posta Road, El Salto Property, and Rio Hondo Fishing Park

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Essential Function: Crew Operations

- Carry out weekly and daily work plans as allocated by YCC Project Lead.
- Directly supervise a crew of approx. 6 members in the completion of restoration and garden work projects.
- Motivate YCC crew members to complete work plans in a timely manner.
- Provide leadership and assist with coaching for crew members to develop necessary project-related skills.
- Facilitate weekly teambuilding activities for crew members.

Essential Function: Risk Management

- Manage crew's physical/emotional well-being and promote a culture of safety in all aspects of crew life.
- Safely transport crew members when necessary.
- Respond to safety concerns and incidents with appropriate and timely actions, keeping Education

Director and TLT staff informed.

Essential Function: Crew Management/Crew Member Development

- Maintain a healthy group dynamic by promoting inclusivity, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Serve as a professional role model, upholding TLT policies and holding crew members accountable for actions.
- Oversee a structured, participatory environment.

Essential Function: Administrative Duties

- Support YCC Project Lead in maintaining detailed, accurate reports of crew attendance/hours, initiate incident reports, report on work completed, and with other required paperwork. Inform Coordinator and TLT staff of important crew developments during formal/informal meetings and briefings.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- 18 – 25 years of age, not to turn 26 until after your work assignment is completed.
- Be a New Mexico resident at least 6 months before hire.
- Be unemployed at the time of hire.
- Have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation.
- Be a US citizen or legal resident of the US or its territories.
- Experience working with youth ages 14 – 25, preferably in a leadership, mentoring, or instructional capacity.
- Ability to analyze projects with TLT staff, determine the capability of crew to accomplish work assignments and best work methods, appropriate tools, safety methods, and materials.
- Experience building a positive group dynamic and confidence in working with diverse and challenging populations.
- Careful attention to detail and ability to create accurate reporting.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience with safe operation of chainsaws and power tools.
- Experience operating heavy equipment such as tractors or skid steers.
- Experience with mapping software and apps such as ArcGIS, CalTopo, Avenza, Google Earth, or OnX.
- Previous construction experience.
- Wilderness medical training.
- Previous saw crew or trail crew experience.

PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

In performing the essential functions of this position, the Crew Lead will be required to:

- Lift or move up to 50 pounds occasionally and 10 to 20 pounds on a regular basis.
- Navigate and traverse uneven terrain.
- Receive detailed information through oral communication and convey important spoken instructions accurately and effectively.
- Work out of doors, subject to outside environmental conditions.

Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

TO APPLY: Visit our website at <https://www.taoslandtrust.org> (under the “Get Involved” tab) or call 575-751-3138 to request application.

The Taos Land Trust is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any individuals on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, marital status, sexual identity, gender expression, or disability.

Taos Land Trust is a drug-free workplace.