



Penn State University
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center
Graduate Assistant (GA) Position Description
Plant Science

DESCRIPTION

This graduate assistantship with Shaver's Creek Environmental Center is a half-time position with tuition waiver and stipend. The GA will work closely with the Plant Science program director to gain experience in, and contribute to, teaching, outreach, and research. The position start date is approximately one week prior to start of fall semester and concludes one week after the end of spring semester.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Acceptance and enrollment in the Forest Resources (FOR) graduate program.
- A strong interest in botany, fungi, ethnobotany, agroforestry and/or nontimber forest products (NTFPs)
- An undergraduate degree in a plant science related discipline (e.g., horticulture, forestry, botany, mycology) with a minimum 3.0 GPA

RESPONSIBILITIES (approximately 20 hours per week)

- GA will assist with classes taught by the program director, including FOR 203—Field Dendrology, RPTM 297G: Interpreting Maple Sugaring to Families, FOR 497B—Forest Herbs, and FOR 497F—Invasive Forest Plants.
- GA will assist with and/or lead plant and/or fungi outreach programs and public education.
- GA will assist with and/or pursue plant and/or fungi research, the scope of which will be negotiated based on student interests, current research grants, and the student's formal graduate committee.
- GA will perform occasional duties related to the operation of Shaver's Creek, including participation in weekly staff meetings and weekend staffing of visitor center services (approximately two days per semester), annual festivals, and center-wide events (e.g., Maple Harvest Festival, Birding Cup/Native Plant Celebration and Sale).
- GA will assist with ongoing landscaping efforts and tasks at the center including development and maintenance of native plant gardens, invasive plant removal, forest stand improvements, and outreach/education related enhancements (e.g., bloom board, signage, brochures, web).

BENEFITS/COMPENSATION

This position carries a full tuition waiver for fall and spring semesters and a monthly stipend to be determined based on available funding and student qualifications.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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