



POSITION DESCRIPTION – Virginia Conservation Advocate

Hours: 40 hours per week, Nonexempt.

Compensation: Competitive salary; holidays, vacation, retirement, family leave

Position Summary: In accordance with ANS' Strategic Plan and the need to respond to climate change, the Advocate will research, coordinate and implement grassroots action and support advocacy on climate resilience, local clean water, and land use policy issues in Northern Virginia. Partner and network with local, regional and state environmental, community and business groups to achieve policy outcomes. Increase public awareness and organize and mobilize ANS members, volunteers and local citizens to take action to protect and restore local watersheds, prepare for and adapt to climate change, and preserve green space in our urban communities.

Read more about the position and its policy goals within our organization at www.conservationblog.anshome.org.

Essential Duties:

Advocacy and Organizing

- Network, convene, and facilitate meetings, events, and trainings for partner organizations (environmental and community groups) in Northern Virginia to achieve shared advocacy goals.
- Educate and organize residents of Northern Virginia to advocate for nature in their communities, and lift up their voices to achieve ANS' environmental policy goals as they intersect with community goals.
- Build and foster relationships and in partnership with Conservation Director, conduct regular meetings with local decision makers and their staffs.
- Identify and communicate top threats to nature, climate, and clean water in Northern Virginia; and in partnership with Conservation Director and network partners, actively work to achieve policy (legislative & agency, including budget funding) outcomes that mitigate these threats.
- Identify Northern Virginia advocacy concerns that warrant ANS Action Alerts and coordinate communications with ANS Conservation and Communications Directors.

Communications and Outreach

- Engage, train, equip and mobilize citizens of all ages in the DC metro region to monitor local water quality using ANS' award-winning *Creek Critters* app.
- Attend and present ANS advocacy and citizen engagement initiatives at ANS events, local and regional conferences and community meetings.
- Conduct regular Action Alert list recruitment drives.
- Provide on the ground coordination of volunteer field activities and direct and work with volunteers on research and organizing needs Northern Virginia.
- Communicate Northern Virginia policy wins and threats through ANS and partner communication channels, including the ANS website, Conservation Blog, and social media.
- Regularly communicate with grant funders and donors as directed by the Conservation Director and Development Director.

Woodend Sanctuary | 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 | 301-652-9188

Rust Sanctuary | 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia 20175 | 703-669-0000

Regular Duties:

Provide regular reports and documentation on the following:

- Time sheets, travel and expense reimbursement forms, time spent on grant funded projects.
- Written memos documenting key activities and strategic decisions/recommendations.
- Attend staff meetings at Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD, on a weekly basis.
- Attend ANS Annual Meeting and other ANS events as assigned by Conservation Director.

Required Qualifications

- Basic familiarity with Northern Virginia's communities and environmental concerns.
- A passion for protecting our natural resources and landscapes through organizing and policy change.
- Strong collaboration and citizen engagement skills and experience, including prior advocacy and/or community organizing experience.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including public speaking.
- Proficient in social and app based communication.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office products including PowerPoint, Word, Excel.

Desired Qualifications

- Resident of Fairfax County, Virginia, or one of its municipalities.
- Bachelor of Science in Biology, Environmental Policy or related field.
- Working knowledge of environmental issues including: climate change mitigation and adaptation, water quality including urban runoff/stormwater management, land use planning, and related issues (*we will teach this skillset to the right candidate*).
- Proficient/conversational in Spanish.

Physical Requirements

- Must be able to hike moderate distances over uneven terrain carrying a load of 20 pounds.
- Must be able to balance on slippery rocks and scale down steep embankments.

Other Requirements

- Must be able to attend occasional (2-4 times/month) evening and/or weekend events.
- Must be comfortable working independently and outside of the office.

To Apply

Submit cover letter and resume, including three professional references, to conserve@anshome.org. Please include the job name in the subject line and cover letter.

This position will stay open until filled. Preferred application deadline is December 31, 2018.

ANS is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in hiring on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected characteristic. ANS is committed to modeling diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion as best practices for the region's environmental community in our Strategic Plan. People of color and those from economically disadvantaged communities are particularly encouraged to apply.