



**RMFI**  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

**Rocky Mountain Field Institute**

*Field Instructor  
Job Description*

### **POSITION SUMMARY:**

The Field Instructor (FI) works under the supervision of the RMFI Program Managers and in close coordination with the RMFI Field Coordinators. The FI aids in the implementation of RMFI's trail, restoration, and education field programs. The FI assists program staff in the completion of trail and restoration projects and the on-the-ground management of field programs. Primary duties include completing objectives for single and multi-day field projects; instructing volunteers (including school-age children) in trail and restoration techniques; assisting with the oversight of tool, equipment, and food logistics in the field; and assisting with the maintenance of project work logs. The FI works with fellow Field Instructors, Field Coordinators, and senior program staff to ensure quality work standards, the highest degree of safety, and an enjoyable experience for all RMFI program participants.

### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Complete trail and restoration work
- Supervise volunteers and work crews in the completion of trail and restoration projects and work on those projects alongside other Field Instructors and the Field Coordinators.
- Serve as a member of a stewardship work crew during project days that do not include volunteers. The proportion of days with and without volunteers is variable.
- Instruct and manage volunteers, students, and other program participants in trail and restoration techniques, field safety, and project objectives.
- Assist with the management of field work days by providing project orientation to participants, properly estimating volunteer and staff requirements, completing work in a timely and efficient manner, and ensuring safety at all times.
- Assist with the management of program safety in the field by ensuring the safety policy and Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is followed at all times.
- Manage tool, equipment, and food logistics in the field.
- Participate in pre-and post-project activities including briefings, evaluations, and trainings.
- Document work completed, including photographs and detailed work logs.
- Assist in training new field staff and interns.
- Assist in promoting and conducting outreach for RMFI programs.
- Assist in implementing environmental education curriculum on select programs.
- Participate in staff trainings and develop new skills and techniques as necessitated by projects.
- Provide clear, effective, and timely communication with the Program Managers, Field Coordinators, and additional staff.

## **REQUIRED SKILLS and ABILITIES**

- Strong conservation ethic and passion for public lands stewardship.
- Must have a valid driver's license and good driving record.
- Ability to participate in vigorous physical activity for extended periods of time at altitudes up to 14,000 feet.
- Ability to spend 7-10 days in a camping or backcountry setting.
- Ability to lift and move a minimum of 40 pounds.
- Wilderness First Aid certification required, class can be taken after employment has started; Wilderness First Responder certification strongly desired .
- Must pass a pre-employment background check.

## **DESIRED SKILLS and ABILITIES**

### ***Environmental Stewardship/Outdoor Recreation***

- Trail building and maintenance, including strong rockwork experience.
- Natural area restoration including social trail closure, erosion mitigation, post-wildland fire restoration, and invasive species control.
- Experience working with rigging equipment such as griphoists, highlines, and bear hangs.
- Proficiency in traveling and living in mountainous backcountry environments.
- Degree not required, related experience OR Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Geography, or related field preferred.
- Current S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw certification or equivalent certification desired but not required.

### ***Leadership***

- Experience in environmental education, volunteer stewardship, outdoor guiding, or related industry preferred.
- Ability to work safely in sometimes-stressful conditions.
- Self-starter who demonstrates the ability to take initiative, set goals, and achieve them both independently and cooperatively as a team member.
- Ability to respectfully work with a variety of volunteers and students of varying ages and abilities to effectively accomplish project goals. Excellent people skills, a sense of humor, and a positive attitude are a must!
- Ability to solve problems quickly and independently.
- Ability to prioritize and work on multiple projects simultaneously.
- Experience overseeing youth conservation corps, AmeriCorps, or other volunteer groups in an outdoor setting is a bonus..

## **Work Schedule**

- This is a seasonal, hourly position based in Colorado Springs, Colorado with no health or vacation benefits. This position is field-based, though some office time is required. The season runs March through October with the possibility of work extending into November depending upon the availability of project funding. The work schedule is very dynamic; the FI will work an average of 40 hours per week, though hours can fluctuate heavily week-to-week depending on projects. The FI may work up to 70 hours per week and may spend up to 18 consecutive days in the field. The Field Instructor can expect significant time working in the backcountry during the peak alpine season, from June through September. Backcountry work will vary depending on project site and location. The bulk of shoulder season work (March to May and September to October) will primarily follow a day work schedule, during which staff will return home after each workday. The position requires extensive travel, fieldwork, and evening and weekend work.

## **WAGES and BENEFITS**

- The Field Instructor position is paid hourly. Pay is consistent with industry standards and will be determined based on experience, certifications and qualifications (anticipated hourly pay range is \$15-\$18 /hour depending on experience).
- Travel with a personal vehicle, if required, is reimbursed at the federal rate.
- For overnight programs, Field Instructors are paid a day rate (10 hours/day) and food and field supplies are provided.
- Benefits include paid sick leave and discounts on outdoor gear and equipment.

## **TO APPLY**

1. Complete the RMFI Employment Application by visiting this [webpage](#).
2. Please email your resume in PDF format to [jobs@rmfi.org](mailto:jobs@rmfi.org) with "RMFI Field Instructor\_YourName" in the subject line.

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