



Volunteer Land Steward Job Description

Land Stewards adopt one of SLT's conserved properties where they provide a consistent stewardship presence over at least 2-3 years and often longer. These volunteers act as the eyes, ears, and ambassadors for the SLT and visit their property at least quarterly. They periodically take photographs to document changes, complete written reports, perform minor maintenance, talk to neighbors and visitors, and alert staff of unwanted uses or issues that need attention.

Qualifications

- Have a strong interest in Stowe Land Trust, and its mission and purpose.
- Be willing to make a 2-3 year commitment to monitor a property seasonally.
- Live in the Stowe area or be a regular visitor in all four seasons.
- Be able to attend a required training and informational session offered annually in the spring.
- Be able and willing to travel to property (must have valid driver's license if driving).
- Be physically able and willing to walk around and inspect properties, possibly off trail.
- Be personable and detail-oriented. Have good communication and recordkeeping skills.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

Essential Tasks

- Serve as a representative of SLT and a liaison with property visitors, local officials, schools, neighbors, and other SLT members
- Visit and monitor adopted property throughout the year (at least quarterly in most cases).
- Maintain SLT signs, kiosks and other property infrastructure when present.
- Remove trash and debris from property
- Document and report property activity to SLT staff on a quarterly basis

Optional Tasks

Dependent on volunteer skills and interest, and property features and uses.

- Perform basic trail maintenance such as clearing ditches, trimming trail corridors, and replacing trail markers
- Assist SLT staff with stewardship projects such as tree plantings, wildlife habitat improvement, invasive plant removal, and bird monitoring
- Lead guided walks and/or help coordinate volunteer work days
- Walk property boundaries to identify encroachments and/or maintenance needs once a year (requires advanced map and compass skills in most cases)
- Assist with communicating with landowners and preparing annual monitoring report

Benefits

- Free training in conservation easement and land stewardship topics
- Work with SLT staff and other volunteers with a similar commitment to conservation
- Get to know a beautiful piece of land well in all seasons
- Play a key role in caring for land important to the Stowe community

For more information about joining the land steward program and upcoming trainings, contact Kristen Sharpless, Conservation Program Manager at kristen@stowelandtrust.org or 802-253-7221.