

CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATOR

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for the developing, implementing and conducting a conservation awareness program for the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District. The employee in this class will personally instruct or supervise the instruction of primary and secondary school students, Community College students and members of social, and other public organizations and groups, in various conservation related projects. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Conservation District Manager with considerable leeway provided for the use of independent judgment. Supervises volunteer workers in all District programs with emphasis on those individuals working on educational projects and programs. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Oversees and participates in the development of conservation awareness programs including lectures, demonstrations, clinics and tours;

Assists in the planning, field layout and construction phases of Best Management Practices;

Develops or supervises the development of interpretive materials such as exhibits, drawings, publications and models for the conservation awareness program;

Organizes "Conservation Field Days" and Envirothon programs for school students utilizing resource persons from such sources as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Federal Agencies, etc;

Makes presentations to school students and other groups explaining conservation practices and describing the activities of a soil water conservation district;

Meets with teachers to discuss program objectives, elicits their comments and recommendations to improve program;

Assists in the preparation of newsletters, feature articles for newspapers, radio, television, and digital media concerning soil and water conservation;

Cooperates with other agencies and organizations in water quality enhancement programs utilizing public policy education techniques;

Seeks, develops, writes and administers grant programs and implements associated projects.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of the purpose, mission, organization and objectives of a soil and water conservation district; good knowledge of the principles and practices of environmental conservation; instructional ability; ability to plan and develop a conservation education program involving lectures, demonstrations and tours; ability to construct lesson plans and outlines to be used in presentations to adult and youth groups; ability to operate a computer and software programs to create presentations, lesson plans and articles; ability to secure the cooperation of others; ability to communicate orally and in writing; initiative and resourcefulness; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and, either:

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree AND one (1) year full-time, or part-time equivalent, paid experience in the development and implementation of a soil and water conservation program OR an educational program in a physical science, soil and water conservation or natural resource protection; OR
2. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two year college with an Associate's degree in natural or physical sciences, conservation, environmental studies, natural resources, forestry, or a closely related field AND two (2) years full-time, or part-time equivalent, paid experience in natural resource protection, conservation construction projects, forestry or related field; OR
3. An equivalent combination of education and experience as defined by the limits of (1) and (2) above.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT: Possession of a valid New York State Operator's license at the time of appointment, and maintenance of such license throughout the tenure of employment in the position.

NOTE: The natural and physical sciences include degree programs in biology, botany, chemistry, earth science, physics or zoology.

REVISED: AUGUST 23, 2000, 4/13/18, 5/7/18
CIVIL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE