



AdkAction

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Adirondack Pollinator Project: Inspiring local and global action to help pollinators thrive.

AdkAction is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit that creates projects to address unmet needs, promote vibrant communities, and preserve the character of the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Pollinator Project is one of our largest initiatives, it focuses on increasing awareness of native and agriculturally managed pollinator species, encouraging citizen science efforts, and enabling habitat creation across the Adirondack region.

Project Description

How do community-scale pollinator gardens impact native pollinator populations?

AdkAction started the Adirondack Pollinator Project (APP) in 2016 in response to the New York State Pollinator Protection Plan. The mission of APP is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, by empowering people to take individual and collective action to help pollinators thrive.

Between 2016 and 2018 APP has distributed 30,000 free wildflower seed packets, hosted dozens of free public lectures and film showings, and engaged Adirondack residents in meaningful ways around pollinator conservation.

In 2019 the focus of APP will be on habitat creation and citizen science monitoring. AdkAction is creating a "Mobile Pollinator Garden Trailer," essentially a garden shed on wheels, and using it to create 20 new pollinator gardens at libraries, schools, and other public locations. In addition to planning and planting the gardens, we will also use citizen science methodology to monitor the chosen garden sites before and after garden installation.

We are seeking a Colgate Fellow to work with AdkAction staff to conduct citizen science monitoring and to participate in the planting of pollinator at pre-determined sites around the Adirondacks. The Fellow will be charged with meeting volunteers at each site to monitor for pollinator species pre-planting and to oversee garden planting. Independently, the Fellow will be asked to return to each garden site in mid-August to document any change in the quantity and variety of pollinator species on site.

Research Statement

The proposed research will help demonstrate the degree to which pollinator gardens are effective at increasing the quantity and diversity of native pollinator species in the Adirondack region. The research will advance AdkAction's work in the pollinator conservation area by increasing our organizations direct contact with the community and demonstrating tangible value by offering gardens and resources. The resulting citizen science data will be very valuable to AdkAction and it's partners as we continue to communicate the importance of planting pollinator habitat and maintaining yards and gardens without pesticides.

Logistical Considerations

The Field School Fellow will work full-time from AdkAction's office in downtown Keeseville and from various garden sites throughout the Park. Shared office space will be offered to the Fellow, but the Fellow will need to provide his/her own laptop computer. Lodging arrangements at the home of a board member of AdkAction is available if needed. Travel will be required and ideally the fellow will have access to an SUV or Truck with the ability to tow 2,000 lbs, the weight of the Mobile

Pollinator Garden Trailer. Fellow will report to AdkAction's Executive Director, Brittany Christenson.

Training & Skills

The right candidate will have critical-thinking skills, be comfortable talking to people from many different backgrounds, and have an interest in biology, conservation, and community engagement. Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are necessary, as well as the ability to communicate clearly and effectively through email. This work is very physical in nature, and the appropriate candidate will be physically capable of lifting up to 50lbs, spending hours on end gardening, and walking several miles some days.

The Fellow can expect to learn how to work with partner organizations to develop appropriate outreach mechanisms. The Fellow will also learn survey creation and project management skills, such as developing a work plan and submitting progress updates. The Fellow will be trained on pollinator gardening best practices as well as on how to conduct and even how to teach methods for citizen science data collection. The Fellow will attend the organizations Annual Meeting and give a final report to the Board of Directors, providing the opportunity to learn about the governance of a non-profit.

The APP Field School Fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in a community of young food producers, artisans, and other entrepreneurs. Access to shopping in Plattsburgh, NY and Burlington, VT are a plus, and it is notable that there are significant recreation opportunities in the area. Rock climbing, hiking, swimming, paddling, biking, Frisbee golf, and more are all available with 10 minutes of the office. For a Fellow over 21 years of age, a local farm brewery serves as a great hub of social life for young people in the community.

Helpful links:

<https://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2017/06/adirondack-pollinator-project-celebrates-pollinator-week.html>

<https://www.adirondackcouncil.org/page/blog-139/news/five-ways-to-celebrate-national-pollinator-week-966.html>

https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/adirondack-pollinator-project-takes-flight/article_209ebc5b-61e0-5e18-9c60-e4649701658a.html

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/scientist-discusses-global-pollinator-crisis>

https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/pushing-for-more-pollinators/article_b87c6c01-4e46-5272-a755-7ae2e50da800.html