



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mower SWCD awarded summer apprentice again *Conservation Corps Minnesota positions offered throughout state*

AUSTIN, Minn. – Friday, Feb. 17, 2017 – Mower Soil & Water Conservation District again has been awarded a summer apprentice to help staff with a variety of projects throughout the county.

Conservation Corps Minnesota recently approved David Wick to return for a second summer of work at the Mower SWCD office in Austin. Wick, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, served as Mower SWCD's summer apprentice in 2016, working on an array of projects. This year's apprenticeship – running from May 16 to Aug. 11 – will include working with Mower County landowners on conservation seeding and surveying the Cedar River and East Side Lake for the presence of aquatic invasive species.

"We're excited to not only get another opportunity from Conservation Corps Minnesota to host a summer apprentice but for David to return to that role with his great work ethic and experience from working in our office last year," Mower SWCD district manager Justin Hanson said. "This will be another busy summer of projects."

Conservation Corps Minnesota is accepting applications through March 3 for young adults, ages 18 to 25, for summer apprentice positions at 34 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Minnesota. Applications can be done online at: www.conservationcorps.org/apply.

Apprentices spend their summer working alongside natural resource professionals to learn hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources. Responsibilities vary by site and may include preparing reports and other conservation-related activities.

Mower SWCD and other participating SWCDs train and mentor the future conservation professionals by providing the apprenticeship service opportunities. This includes identifying worthwhile service activities and designating a staff person to provide day-to-day supervision.

Applicants can designate sites they are willing to work at this summer; nearby locations, such as Winona and Fillmore SWCDs, also have been awarded apprentices. Typical schedules run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday in office and outdoor settings; some evening and weekend hours are possible.

Apprentices serve as AmeriCorps members and receive a monthly living stipend of \$1,355 as well as an education award of \$1,528 to use toward qualifying education and student-loan expenses. Educational credits may be arranged by the apprentice. The summer apprentice program is funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund as well as the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Those interested can get more information at www.conservationcorps.org/apprentice-academy and complete an application online at www.conservationcorps.org/apply. Applications are due by March 3, 2017.

Conservation Corps provides meaningful work for young people in managing natural resources, responding to disasters, conserving energy and leading volunteers. Conservation Corps provides training in resource management, safety, job-readiness and technical skills while also helping young people develop personal responsibility, a strong work ethic and greater awareness of environmental stewardship.

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District

Since 1953, Mower SWCD has provided land and conservation services to Mower County landowners to help manage lands in a way that promotes a sound economy as well as sustains and enhances natural resources that are key to the state's environmental health. Mower SWCD is one of Minnesota's 91 SWCDs that each are governed by a board of elected supervisors.



Mower Soil & Water Conservation District

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