



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Technical Advisor

Status: Full Time / Seasonal

Location: Gainesville, FL

Compensation: \$21.00/hour

Start Date: September 28, 2026

The Florida Trail Association (FTA) builds, maintains, protects, and promotes the Florida National Scenic Trail (Florida Trail, FT), along with a network of hiking trails throughout the state of Florida. Together with our partners, the Association provides opportunities for the public to contribute to meaningful volunteer work, engage in outdoor recreation, and participate in environmental education. The US Forest Service is the administrator of the Florida Trail and collaborates with the FTA trail team on strategic goals.

FTA Technical Advisors (TAs) are responsible for leading high quality trail work projects on the FNST. TAs work under the general supervision of the FTA Field Project Manager, and are often directed in the field by FTA's Regional Trail Program Managers. Trail work along the FNST largely consists of corridor brushing with hand tools and mechanized equipment. Infrastructure construction, repair, and removal can also be expected. Work projects vary in length from 2-10 days in front and backcountry locations.

Technical Advisors should have a broad trail work background and excellent trail construction, crew leading, and trail layout experience. They work alongside FTA chapter volunteers, university groups, BSA troops, and other FNST partner organizations. The ability to effectively lead, teach, and supervise volunteer crews is an essential function of this position.

Responsibilities:

- Supervise and work alongside volunteer crews on a variety of projects on the FNST.
- Participate in the construction and maintenance of trail infrastructure.
- Teach volunteers trail maintenance, construction, and crew leading skills.
- Ensure a high quality experience for volunteers on FTA projects.
- Verify trail conditions and notify FTA Regional Managers about access issues, safety concerns, threats, and changes to the trail.
- Independently manage various aspects of field work logistics, including food preparation, material and supply procurement, tool maintenance, and drafting emergency response plans.
- Serve as a technical resource to agencies and other FNST partners.

Minimum Training and Experience:

- One year of professional trail work experience and meaningful trail work alongside volunteers.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Experience in all aspects of trail maintenance, design, and construction.
- Ability to hike and perform physical labor in remote backcountry locations and under challenging environmental conditions.
- Ability to solve problems, work independently, and be resourceful.
- Ability to teach, motivate, inspire, and learn from volunteers.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to track expenses and submit accurate and timely expense reports.
- Responsible driving record and a valid driver's license.
- Have a dependable personal vehicle, and be comfortable using FTA vehicles and towing trailers as required.

Additional Desirable Qualifications:

- Wilderness First Responder and CPR certification
- USFS Chainsaw Certification Class A or B (bucking and limbing).
- Experience with trail infrastructure construction, maintenance, and repairs, including minor bridges, boardwalks, puncheon, and kiosks.
- Ability to maintain and repair trail tools and small engines (chainsaw, brushcutters, etc.)
- Experience using GIS software and handheld GPS units

Work Environment:

- This position requires regular field work in remote locations as well as frequent weekend and overnight travel. The work area is the entire state of Florida. FTA reimburses mileage and lodging expenses, staff are entitled to a per-diem for overnight front-country travel, and group meals are provided during overnight backcountry work. FTA fleet vehicles are provided whenever possible.
- This position involves strenuous physical activity. TAs will spend time in remote locations, camping overnight and hiking in inclement weather. The position involves working with hand tools and power tools commonly used in trail maintenance, including but not limited to: brush mowers, chainsaws, trimmers, hand saws, loppers, axes, and rigging equipment. The ability to lift up to fifty pounds and hike up to twelve miles a day may be necessary.
- The work season for this position is approximately 6 months, with flexible end dates.

Benefits:

Compensation for this position is \$21.00/hour, paid bi-monthly.

To Apply:

Please email a cover letter, resume, and three professional references in PDF format to Hiring Manager at hiring@floridatrail.org, using the subject line "Technical Advisor". References will not be contacted until the candidate has been asked directly for permission.

The FTA is an equal employment opportunity employer. We seek a diverse pool of candidates and believe that our organization benefits from the perspectives and talents of a diverse staff.