



The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society (MHAS) seeks a Resident Outreach Coordinator for the Neilson Spearhead Center Nature Preserve (NSC), 48851 County 29, Bemidji, MN 56601. www.spearheadmhas.org

Do you have a passion for wonders of the natural world? Join MHAS in engaging people of all ages to “develop a sense of wonder and joy for nature and the importance of wild places” at the Neilson Spearhead Center, just 11 miles south of Bemidji, MN. This is a part-time, year-round, annual renewable position (averaging 10 hours per week). Compensation is in the form of housing, valued at \$800/month. Residency is a condition of employment. Utilities are not included (average cost of approximately \$200/month).

Purpose of the position

The purpose of the resident outreach coordinator is to increase community engagement with the Neilson Spearhead Center through organizing and promoting NSC events, representing and promoting of MHAS/NSC to the community, and providing basic onsite security and building and grounds oversight.

The coordinator will have an active role helping the Board co-create a vibrant future for the Neilson Spearhead Center. They must have enthusiasm to continuously improve the Neilson Spearhead Center as a place to “foster personal connections to and stewardship of our natural world.” We hope growing community use and love of Spearhead will create additional opportunities to expand this position.

Primary responsibilities:

- Organizing and promoting NSC events.
- Supporting science, research, & educational use and activities such as the Young Naturalist Program.
- Engaging and assisting visitors to enhance visitor experience at NSC. This requires having or developing a comprehensive familiarity of NSC site history, trail system, ecology, and nature sightings.
- Partnering with the MHAS Board to generate \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year of revenue (above current baseline) in support of the NSC through any combination of program, auxiliary, and gift income.
- Actively promoting MHAS via visitor interactions, articles, kiosk and signage.
- Developing and maintaining neighborhood relationships.
- Site security and property monitoring.
- Basic (homeowner-level) building and grounds maintenance.

Neilson Spearhead Center

NSC is a 466 acre nature preserve encircling a pristine, 189 acre headwater lake with pine-hardwood forests, wetlands, and bogs. Development is limited to a few rustic buildings, trails, and boardwalks designed and maintained to keep the visitor’s focus on their natural surroundings and not the built environment. Visitors to NSC can have a quiet, remote experience not commonly available at most other public parks or resorts.

Vision: The Neilson Spearhead Center is a ‘Walden Pond in the Northwoods’ - a place for experiential nature education, scientific research, quiet reflection, and contemplation; where one develops a sense of wonder and joy for nature and the importance of wild places.

NSC Goals:

- Maintain the integrity of the natural communities present on the NSC property.
- Provide and be a resource for education in environmental science nature-based experiential learning and personal growth.
- Conduct and be a resource for research in areas of environmental science.
- Provide opportunities to create personal connections and a sense of place with nature.
- Be financially sustainable and a valued contributor to the quality of our surrounding community.



How does the Resident Outreach Coordinator fit in?

Nature Ambassador Just as MHAS exists to 'connect people with the natural world', the Resident Outreach Coordinator welcomes, engages, and connects visitors with a unique and special natural space: the Neilson Spearhead Center. The Outreach Coordinator helps visitors learn about and experience Spearhead, discover what's blooming or making that trilling call coming from the trees or woodland ponds, or explore how Spearhead can be a source of inspiration and creativity for the arts, music, literature, history, and science.

The outreach coordinator is Spearhead's nature ambassador offering energy, enthusiasm, and a positive representation of MHAS to Spearhead visitors and the surrounding community. They help provide safe, reliable facilities for education, research, and general visitor use of the Neilson Spearhead Center, while reducing the Board's need to directly manage day-to-day site operations.

Residence

Imagine living somewhere surrounded by natural beauty and ample opportunities to hike, snowshoe, or canoe right out your front door! The residence at Neilson Spearhead Center is a 1040 sq ft, 2 bedroom earthen home completed in 1981. The building was constructed as an example of environmentally-friendly, innovative design with concrete walls and roof embedded into a hillside and covered with sod. It was designed and built almost entirely by MHAS volunteers. The residence was completely updated in 2018 with new flooring, appliances, energy efficient heating system, and more. It also has a Jotul wood stove, large outdoor deck, 2-stall garage, and path leading right down to Spearhead Lake. Limited furnishings are provided. Couples or a small family are welcome.



Additional opportunities

Based on a person's skills and success in the position we hope to be able to include additional hours and responsibilities, e.g. leading NSC programs and activities, providing social media support, being our assistant or lead naturalist for the summer Young Naturalist Program, or facility and grounds maintenance services. Compensation for these additional opportunities depend on the service(s) provided.

Who We Are

The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society is one of Bemidji's most enduring environmental conservation organizations. We were founded through the efforts of concerned local citizens who saw the need for a strong environmental voice in the early 1970's. The majority of our activities are environmental education and outreach. **"Our mission is to foster personal connections to and stewardship of our natural world."**

What We Do

- Manage a 466 acre preserve called the Neilson Spearhead Center
- Host a nature camp called "The Young Naturalist Program" each summer where kids get a hands-on nature experience!
- Lead community projects and events that connect people with nature
- Advocate for local conservation of important habitats and ecosystems
- Provide opportunities for nature-inspired study and research

If interested, email your resume with a letter of interest to mhas@spearheadmhas.org or call Peter Buessler, MHAS President, 218-760-3592. Let us know how you can help shape Spearhead's future!