



Queer Forestry and Fire Program FAQ

Why is creating a queer specific space in the outdoors important?

Individuals who identify as queer have historically been excluded from or made to feel ostracized in mainstream outdoor spaces. Stewarding the land is something that has always been done in community; this requires that everyone feel safe and welcome to show up how they are.

The creation of specific safe spaces to connect with the land alongside other individuals who have similar lived experiences helps to work against inequality and stigma that the LGBTQIA+ community has faced in the outdoors. Tending the land in community can be a healing experience for us all.

Is this program right for me?

This program is designed for individuals ages 18+ who identify as LGBTQIA+ and are:

- Looking to learn more about stewardship, restoration, forestry, or prescribed fire as potential career paths.
- Studying ecology, natural resource management or related topics and want to gain more hands-on experience.
- Interested in creating more queer inclusive spaces in the outdoors.
- Want to expand their knowledge of ecology, plant ID, and how to tend the land.
- Enjoy the outdoors and are looking for ways to give back and connect.
- Own land locally and want to learn how to tend it.

Do I have to commit to the entire six-week program, or can I drop in?

The intention of the program is to create a close community and team dynamic within the participant cohort and for that reason we ask that you commit to all six Saturdays. LandPaths offers plenty of drop-in volunteer workdays available for individuals who are not able to make this time commitment but still want to get involved. Check our [Calendar](#) to see upcoming dates!

Can I use this training toward college credits, community service hours, or experience on job applications?

Yes, absolutely! While this is not a formal internship through any university or institution, you are welcome to use the time and experience toward any college credits, volunteer hours, or job applications. This can be arranged prior to the program or after completion based on your needs.

Are there any costs associated with the program?

No. The program is free of charge. Participants are expected to provide their own transportation, gear, and food/water. That said, carpooling can be arranged after the program start date and **all tools, PPE, and supplemental snacks will be provided.**

Do I need prior experience?

No. This program is intended for beginners, so all levels/background experience are welcome. A basic comfortability with being outdoors and potentially in inclement weather is required but we hope to make this as comfortable and approachable as possible. Participants should be prepared to hike up to five miles, lift heavy logs and use tools, practice situation awareness, and adhere to safety protocol. In addition, punctuality and a willingness to learn are essential.