Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Summer Watershed Steward Ambassador Program (SWSA). This is a Western Connecticut State University program in partnership with Danbury Public Schools, the Housatonic Valley Association’s (HVA) Still River Watershed Connections Program that offers students an opportunity to improve their local outdoor environment and simultaneously develop college readiness skills.

This program will pay you a small stipend over 5-weeks to work on HVA’s Still River Watershed Connections Crew and restore habitat that can improve water quality in the Still River and your environmental health. Restoration activities include invasive plant removal (weeding), planting shrubs and bushes along stream banks, cleaning up trash and trail maintenance. All restoration work is done outside. Much like a landscaping work site, you will be using hand tools such as rakes, shovels, clippers/loppers, etc. Prepare to get dirty, sweaty, and have a lot of fun! While in the field you will also participate in citizen science projects such as macroinvertebrate sampling, invasive species mapping, and more! During those 5-weeks you will also work with an instructor and graduate students to build connections between your outdoor restoration efforts, civic responsibilities, and authentic environmental issues that you can engage in as a career. One day a week you will meet with instructors to read and discuss data that relate to your restoration work.

**Requirements and Details:**

* Current Danbury High School Science Students (Rising Junior Status in Aquatic Science Preferred)
* Current 2.3 or higher cumulative GPA
* Interested in working outdoors over the summer

**Summer 2021**

**Dates**: TBD

**Times**: MTWF: 9am – 12PM Restoration Work (Location dependent on restoration site. Transportation to be provided); TH: 9-12 at University.

**Pay Rate**: $10/hour – 16 hours/week for 5 weeks ($800 total)

Please go here to apply on-line:

If you have any questions, please contact Theodora Pinou, PI, *Finding Our Way*,

pinout@wcsu.edu. If you have questions about field work specific questions please contact Courteny Morehouse (HVA), Still River Watershed Connections at courtenymorehouse.hva@gmail.com

**Fields for on-line application:**

Last name, First Name

Citizenship Status (US Citizen/National; US Permanent Resident; US Refugee or Asylee; other)

Grade in High School (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)

Cumulative GPA (weighted)

Best Email to contact you

Best Phone number to contact you

Will you be able to devote 3 hours per day for 5 weeks towards developing your college career?

When was the last time you spent time outdoors?

In 200-words or less, please explain what you did while you were outside and how long you spent outside.

Please explain why should we consider you for this opportunity.