



Research Associate LTE

2025

The Ridges seeks a motivated associate to support the Boreal Climate Survivability Project, a joint effort in collaboration with The Ridges Sanctuary and the Climate Change Coalition of Door County and the numerous Ridges Research for Restoration projects.

As a leading voice for conservation action, the mission of The Ridges Sanctuary is to promote positive environmental behaviors through impactful educational experiences, land protection and management, and ecological research. The Ridges was established in 1937 after Albert Fuller, then Curator of Botany at the Milwaukee Public Museum, began spending a significant amount of time surveying the landscape. Fuller spearheaded a grassroots movement to protect this incredibly diverse property and establish Wisconsin's oldest member-based land trust. This grassroots movement still drives the organization today. The Ridges Sanctuary now protects 1,700+ acres of the Midwest's most biologically diverse ecosystems and serves as a leading voice for conservation action in the region. Our campus features 5 miles of rustic trails, rare wildflowers, historic Range Lights, indoor exhibits, and an accessible boardwalk among many other things.

Joining our team means becoming part of an organization committed to creativity, teamwork, and excellence. Our goal is to foster a supportive and inclusive work culture where every team member can thrive and contribute to our ongoing success.

Position

This position is designed to primarily support our Boreal Climate Survivability Project and The Ridges Research for Restoration efforts.

Boreal Climate Survivability Project:

In 2024, The Ridges and the Climate Change Coalition of Door County were awarded a grant to conduct important research surrounding tree survivability in the boreal forest and mesic forests of Door County. The vision for this project is to establish climate resilient, biodiverse and healthy forest habitats for birds, mammals, plants, insects, and other species. This position plays a critical role launching this project and supporting the various activities including but not limited to tree planting, biodiversity surveys, plot monitoring, data collection, volunteer coordination, etc. The associate in this position would "own" the activities conducted throughout the field season and would work directly with key staff of both organizations as well as a community of volunteers.

- [Boreal Climate Survivability Project Narrative](#)

Ridges Research for Restoration:

A snapshot of our ongoing research efforts can be found by clicking the links below

- [Orchid Restoration Project](#)
- [Dwarf Lake Iris Restoration Project](#)

This position would allow the associate to utilize their own interests and expertise in field research to support our mission.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Working collaboratively with the research team and other staff to develop goals for research initiatives.
- Assisting with the research protocols for the Boreal Climate Survivability Project and Ridges Research for Restoration Projects.
- Establishing protocols for research-based reporting.
- Leading field work activities relating to the project including but not limited to plot establishment, planting activities, monitoring and surveying, etc.
- Reporting research results for monitoring and restoration projects.
- Leading volunteers and staff to facilitate citizen science-based monitoring activities relating to the Boreal Climate Survivability Project and Ridges Research for Restoration Projects.
- Functioning as a liaison between participating organizations and institutions.
- Contributing to own research initiatives that support The Ridges mission and the efforts of the greater research community.
- Functioning as an at large ambassador for The Ridges Sanctuary when interacting with guests, answering questions and assisting with directions, etc. as they arise.
- OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED

Qualifications and Skills:

- At least 18 years of age
- Experience conducting or supporting field research,
- Leadership experience or the demonstration of the ability to lead and coordinate groups is preferred,
- Energetic and enthusiastic personality to interact and collaborate with co-workers, volunteers, and visitors,
- Excellent communication skills,
- Withstand the physical demands of work which involves some lifting, carrying, bending and hiking across uneven terrain,
- Ability to perform the essential duties of the position with or without reasonable accommodation,
- Ability to perform field work in challenging conditions, with time flexibility.

Position Specifics

Duration: 1,000 hours, roughly 40 hours per week for 25 weeks with a flexible start. Ideally April – October.

Additional Notes and Relevant Information:

TRAINING: Various levels of training will be provided. Orientations to each research project and training to use our research equipment will be prioritized.

HOUSING: Affordable housing is available for this position.

To Apply

Submit resume and cover letter to Katie Krouse, Executive Director via email at katie@ridgessanctuary.org. Email subject line: Research Associate LTE Submission.

Deadline to apply is March 11th, 2025. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and the position will remain open until filled.

We look forward to reviewing your application!

The Ridges Sanctuary is an equal opportunity employer and considers applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally-protected status.