



Croagh Patrick Path Manager

The Croagh Patrick Stakeholder CLG are in the position to progress with the recruitment of the following position and Path Trainees in Autumn 2020.

The challenge: The issues of path repair and management on Croagh Patrick present an exceptional technical challenge in terms of the landscape value, varied terrain and distinctive geology of the mountain and the scale, intensity and dynamism of the erosion on the main path. A major theme of the post is to help develop and sustain local skills, both professional and volunteer, to stabilise the path and maintain it in a sustainable condition for the long term. There are also very important social and cultural components around the mountain, including high levels of use by a diverse group of visitors, key spiritual and religious underpinnings, and its iconic status in the local and regional landscape and cultural identity. The project will be subject to close public scrutiny.

The Path Manager will, therefore, need to combine:

- demonstrated strong technical ability and extensive experience in execution and management of mountain path work to the very highest industry standards;
- proven leadership in the training and development of craft mountain path skills among team workers and volunteers;
- a high degree of sensitivity to the range and depth of values of the mountain.

Work programme and duties

The primary objective of the Path Manager will be to implement the existing consented plan for sustainable access and habitat restoration along the main path on the mountain. The secondary objective of the Path Manager will be to promote understanding and awareness of the project and disseminate good practice elsewhere in Ireland.

The Path Manager will have lead responsibility for operations and personnel on the ground, but will deal with budgetary control, administration, volunteer recruitment and communications, and will lead on wider dissemination of information, advice, and guidance from the project.

In pursuit of the **primary objective**, the Path Manager will be required to:

- Lead implementation of the consented plan for sustainable access and habitat restoration, which entails the building of aggregate and stone pitched paths, including a bespoke ‘cobble pitching’ technique which has been trialled on the summit cone, path drainage works consisting of culverts, cross drains and water bars, landscaping and habitat restoration;
- Assist in the recruitment and management of a small team of retained specialist path workers;
- Lead in on-the-ground training of the path workers;
- Lead in the procurement and delivery of appropriate tools and materials;
- Maintain effective work scheduling, recording and progress reporting in liaison with the Stakeholder Representative / Directors.
- Assist in organisation and programming of volunteer support work;
- Lead in on-the-ground management and training of volunteers;
- Specify and supervise works to be carried out by specialist contractors and with the procurement process.

In pursuit of the important **secondary objective**, the path manager will be required to assist the Directors & Stakeholders:

- with PR and media activity and in local presentations to foster awareness and support for the project as well as low-impact behaviour on the mountain;
- to establish Croagh Patrick as a National Centre for the development of skills in upland path construction and management;
- in developing and presenting ‘roadshow’ workshops to help disseminate good practice among other managers of upland sites;
- Occasionally provide technical input to other upland path projects around the country.

Person specification

Essential skills and experience

- A demonstrated commitment to the conservation of mountain environments in Ireland. This should include full awareness and understanding of Mountaineering Ireland's *Helping the Hills* principles;
- Substantial proven practical experience of executing and managing sensitive upland path repair and construction methods to industry standards, as per UPAG *Upland Path Standards for Scotland*;
- Demonstrated high skill in hand-build techniques;
- A proven track record of recruiting and retaining path workers, and of providing effective training and on-site supervision for staff and volunteers;
- Substantial proven practical experience of path survey and monitoring practice to industry standards, as per Upland Path Advisory Group (UPAG);
- Practical experience in the application of health and safety regulations and good safety practice in the mountain setting;
- Flexibility and a positive approach to collaborative working;
- Appropriate and current certified First Aid skills;
- Physical fitness for sustained access and manual work on the mountain in all seasons.

Additional desirable skills and experience

[training may be provided as required]

- Effective public communication in writing and speaking to present the project in formal and informal settings, on the mountain and in committee, workshop and public meetings;
- Experience in the use of helicopters for the transport of materials to remote worksites;
- Experience with mechanical excavators in sensitive path repairs;
- A good understanding of the cultural and spiritual underpinnings of the Croagh Patrick 'Visitors Experience';
- A full driving licence.

Additional information:

- Short Listing maybe required, prior to the competitive interview process.
- Criteria to be used for shortlisting purposes will be based on the competition guidelines and the information supplied on the application forms.
- Each candidate will be required to submit as references the names and addresses of two responsible persons to whom he/she is well known but not related.
- Candidates will be required to submit documentary evidence on request to the company in support of their application.
- Candidates will be required to adhere to all Covid-19 Guidelines current at this time.

Contract Details:

- 12 months initial contract, subject to funding in Year 2.
- Remuneration : circa €62k linked to the experience
- 25 days Annual Leave
- 6 month probation
- Reporting to the company directors (The Croagh Patrick Stakeholder CLG / Stakeholder Representative)

Application Process:

- **Deadline: 5pm on Monday 31st August 2020**
- Job specification and Application form available from: croaghpatricksg@gmail.com
 - Complete application forms be submitted in PDF format to the email at: croaghpatricksg@gmail.com
 - Document to be saved as [your Name_MANAGER]
- Interviews will held during September 2020 in Westport, County Mayo.
 - While it is desired that candidate attend in person in line with Covid19 Guidelines, interviews can be facilitated online, please make this known in your application.