



**GS-0802-07/08/09 Engineering Technician
Chattooga River Ranger District
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests**

Introduction:

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, USDA Forest Service Region 8, will soon be filling an Engineering Technician position on the Chattooga River Ranger District in Lakemont, Georgia. The purpose of this outreach is to inform potential applicants of the opportunity to apply. Depending on the level of response received, this position may be advertised as a career ladder or at a targeted grade. **The incumbent may be required to work across District boundaries depending on Forest priorities and needs.**

If you are interested in the position, fill out the attached Outreach Response Form. Please indicate if you have career or career-conditional status and the highest series and grade you have ever held.

The Position to be filled:

The position is to function as an Engineering Technician. This position provides a range of engineering duties and the incumbent would be responsible for, but not limited to:

- Using engineering project survey notes, data and specifications, making designs and layouts of roads, trails, bridges, drainage structures, and other systems;
- Ascertaining that all information needed for a project is provided in accordance with appropriate design and drafting standards;
- Maintaining records and monitoring project construction of roads, trails, bridges, drainage structures, and other systems of limited scope;
- Performing technical review of drawings and exercising judgment in selecting best of all possible design layouts;
- Conducting inspections of construction projects;
- Performing technical review of contract designs to avoid or correct errors of nonconformance with construction specifications; and ensuring work meets contract standards; and
- Coordinating District road maintenance schedules.

The Location:

The Chattooga River Ranger District is comprised of 261,000 acres that include Banks, Habersham, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, and White counties. The District has a very complex vegetative pattern since it is located in a transition area between the Blue Ridge Mountains Province and the Upper Piedmont. As part of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests system, the district represents some of the finest outdoor recreation activities in the state of Georgia with 200+ miles of trails (to include 35 miles on the Appalachian Trail), 25,000+ acres of Wilderness, 25+ developed recreation areas, and a multitude of dispersed recreation areas.

The Chattooga River Ranger District is located in the small northeast Georgia community of Lakemont in Rabun County. The town is nestled in the Appalachian chain between Clarkesville and Clayton, Georgia near the Tallulah Gorge State Park. A short 1.5 hour drive north of Atlanta, Lakemont sits on Historic Highway 441 and is a thoroughfare for sightseers of the Georgia and North Carolina mountains.

Lakemont is about nine miles from Clayton, the county seat for Rabun County, and is located 100 miles north of Atlanta. Rand-McNally has listed Rabun County as one of the most desirable places to retire due to climate, low taxes and life-style. Rabun County has a population of approximately 13,000. Additional information may be found on the following web site: www.gamountains.com. Clayton is the county seat for Rabun County with a population of 2,500. Clarkesville is the county seat for Habersham County with a population of 1,647.

The Rabun County School System consists of a Pre-K Head Start, three K-6 elementary schools, a middle school (7-8) and high school (9-12). <http://www.rabun.k12.ga.us/> The area is also home to two private schools; Rabun Gap – Nachoochee School and Tallulah Falls Schools. Both board students and accept local day students. Medical facilities close to Lakemont include Habersham County Medical Center, Mountain Lakes Hospital, and numerous local clinics, dentists, and other health care providers. Much larger medical facilities are located in nearby Toccoa and Gainesville, which are within 25-60 miles. There are over 51+ churches in Rabun County representing most denominations

Rabun and Habersham counties are highly desirable second-home and vacation retreat communities; therefore new and used home prices are slightly higher than are usually found in other rural areas. Both counties have a good housing market with numerous properties and houses for sale, however rental property is scarce.

Climate

Better known as “The Place Where Spring Spends the summer”. The average daytime winter temperature is 45 degrees, and the average daytime summer temperature is 80 degrees. The growing season is 220 days, with an average rainfall of approximately 50-80 inches per year. Fall leaf color is abundant, as are flowering blossoms of numerous native plants and trees in spring and summer.

Economy

Rabun County has a thriving economy based on a diverse mixture of jobs in manufacturing, service industries, tourism and agriculture. With Ecoshel Prefabricated Building Systems, LLC being the most recent in the county, manufacturing and tourism is the leading employer. There are a number of discount department stores, grocery store chains and banks in the area. Several locally owned and chain restaurants are located in the area. Other popular restaurants not immediately accessible are within a short commuting distance.

Higher Education

Several colleges are located within easy commuting distance of Rabun County. Piedmont College is located in Habersham County and North Georgia Technical College, is in Clarkesville. The following colleges and universities can be reached within an hour: University of Georgia, Athens; North Georgia College & State University, Dahlonega; Brenau University, Gainesville; Gainesville College and Lanier Technical College, Oakwood, Georgia; and Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

Whatever your pleasure, there is a place in Rabun and surrounding counties to participate in most any outdoor recreation activity you enjoy doing! Area outdoor recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, rafting or tubing, rappelling, tennis, golf and a variety of other outdoor activities. From Clarkesville to Clayton, municipal facilities include several golf courses, tennis courts, community centers, and recreational parks, ball fields, swimming pools, playgrounds, etc. There are five lakes for fishing and water sports in Rabun County, and many trout streams for the cold water fisherman. Rabun County is also noted as the home of the Chattooga River made famous in the movie "Deliverance". For the hunter, whitetail deer, eastern wild turkey and black bear provide big game hunting opportunities. There are also numerous opportunities for small game, and wing shooters as well. Tallulah Gorge, Black Rock Mountain, and Moccasin Creek State Parks are located nearby.

If you are interested in this position, please respond to this outreach by **February 28, 2013**.

Contact Information: For information about this vacancy please contact **Edward Hunter, District Ranger** at 706-754-6221 ext. 100 or ehunter@fs.fed.us.

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Please Respond by 03/18/2013

Position Title/Series/Grade: _____

Location: _____

Personal Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Internet E-Mail Address:

Phone: Office _____
Cell: _____

Current Title/Series/Grade: _____

Highest Position Held: _____

Title/Series/Grade: _____

Location: _____

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes: _____ No: _____

IF YES:

Type of Appoint you are currently under: _____
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted)

Current Agency and location: _____

IF NO:

Are you currently a temporary employee? Yes: _____ No: _____

Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position:

Please return this form to Edward Hunter, District Ranger at ehunter@fs.fed.us or fax (706) 754-1021. Reply may also be mailed to USDA Forest Service, Attn: Edward Hunter, District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, 9975 Hwy 441 South, Lakemont, GA 30542.

