

DEEP SPRINGS

DEEP SPRINGS COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA
Founded 1917

Ranch Mechanic: Open Position Announcement

Deep Springs College, a unique educational institution in the high desert of Eastern California, is in need of an experienced and skilled Ranch Mechanic. This position requires an individual with a deep understanding and skill set in managing diverse mechanical systems and hands-on maintenance and repair work in collaboration with a dynamic and motivated staff and student team. The Ranch Mechanic's responsibilities will extend across our active ranch and farm, encompassing a diverse fleet of vehicles, critical farm machinery, and extensive infrastructure, including wells and a farm (wheel line) irrigation infrastructure. Seasonal participation in farming practices (specifically the hay operation) is an expectation and opportunity of this position. The Ranch Mechanic is appointed by the President of the college and responsible to the Ranch Manager.

Job Summary

The Ranch Mechanic is an integral part of Deep Springs College. By overseeing the maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment, this role ensures the smooth running of the college's farming, academic, and extracurricular activities. In their role, they train novice students on the importance and intricacies of mechanical work and how it supports a self-sufficient community like Deep Springs. Their work directly contributes to the college's mission of self-governance, labor, and learning. The Ranch Mechanic is a supervisor, teacher, and mentor for students. They carry out the following responsibilities, with the help of a student team:

Key Responsibilities

1. Infrastructure and Fleet Maintenance:

- a. Continual execution of preventive maintenance and replacement programs for all vehicles and heavy equipment.
- b. Ensuring the regular inspection, maintenance, and repair of all vehicles used for College business.
- c. Maintenance and repair of farm and ranch equipment, when needed.
- d. Operating farm equipment during peak season of the hay operation
- e. Maintenance of farm wheel lines and irrigation systems.
- f. Training student, staff, and faculty drivers where needed

2. Implementation of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program and the College Safety Policy for all of the areas of responsibility.

The Ranch Mechanic, like all staff positions, may be required to spend some of their working time joining on a governance committee for the college, e.g. the applications committee. They may also have the opportunity, should they so choose, to offer an independent study or small class on skills beyond the regular supervision and instruction of student laborers.

Qualifications

1. Two or more years of experience as a mechanic, preferably with exposure to agricultural or similar settings
2. Demonstrated expertise in vehicle and equipment maintenance, exposure to gas, diesel, and electric systems.
3. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively and mentor a diverse range of individuals, from students to professionals.

Deep Springs values diversity and encourages individuals with various experiences and backgrounds to apply. Working at Deep Springs College offers rewarding experiences beyond the scope of individual roles. Staff members not only manage their respective responsibilities but also interact with students, providing guidance in their studies, work, and communal decision-making. Staff also set high behavioral and communicative standards, participate in campus events, and collaborate on problem-solving and improvements. This unique, intimate setting is often considered a rare privilege and enriching aspect of professional life. This job is a five-day work week but must be flexible for “on call situations,” emergencies, and special events such as (but not limited to) extraordinary projects, board meetings, and reunions.

Compensation and Benefits

The Ranch Mechanic position offers the following outstanding benefits:

- On-site housing
- Paid utilities
- Meals provided
- Health, vision, and dental insurance
- Above-average PTO allowance (starting at 27 days)
- Substantial retirement contribution
- Professional development funding and opportunities

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, alongside the opportunity to live and work in a distinctive educational environment. Here, you can have a meaningful and singular impact. The salary range for the Ranch Mechanic is \$69,000 - \$76,000 per year.

College Description

Deep Springs College is a private, nonsectarian, fully accredited, two-year college program for academically-gifted young people, located on a small cattle-and-alfalfa ranch in a beautiful, remote area of the White Mountains on the California-Nevada border. 24-30 students attend. [Watch 60 Minutes profile about Deep Springs College from 2022.](#) The program, founded in 1917, combines rigorous academic coursework with a minimum of 20 hours of physical labor each week. Students milk cows, wash dishes, assist in the office, cook, clean, make hay, and tend to cattle, horses and gardens.

All members of the Deep Springs community—the students, faculty, staff, president, and resident families—live on-site and take part in fostering and developing community life, at the same time respecting each others' need for privacy. Room and board are provided for all employees as part of a robust benefits package. Deep Springs is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, age, or disability. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

The college is located in California's Eastern Sierra region on Highway 168, 26 miles east of Big Pine, California, 11 miles from the Nevada state line. Death Valley National Park and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest are directly adjacent to the College, and Yosemite National Park, Mono Lake, the Buttermilks, and Mammoth and are all within a few hours' drive. Los Angeles is a 5-hour drive away, Las Vegas is 3.5 hours; and the San Francisco Bay Area is 7-8 hours depending on the season.

Application Instructions

For additional information, visit <https://www.deepsprings.edu/employment/staff-job-openings/>. Applicants must consent to a background check. If you believe you would excel in this role and make a meaningful contribution to our community, please apply by sending your resume, a cover letter stating your interest and qualifications, and contact information for at least two professional references to the following addresses: tgipson@deepsprings.edu and zink@deepsprings.edu. We have just begun reviewing applications and will continue to welcome any and all new applications until the position has been filled.