



TERRACORPS

TerraCorps is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals.

This year's TerraCorps program will support thirty-six full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Collaboration Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Urban Agriculture Coordinator (UAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 27th, 2018-July 26th, 2019) in which they complete at least 1700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

North County Land Trust will host a Community Engagement/Youth Education Coordinator for the 2018-19 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

2017 Community Engagement/Youth Education Position Opening with North County Land Trust

North County Land Trust
325 Lindell Ave
Leominster, MA 01453
www.northcountylandtrust.org

North County Land Trust is a non-profit, regional land conservation organization founded in 1992 to protect, preserve and promote the natural resources of north central Massachusetts. NCLT serves 14 communities and focuses on identifying natural resources, working lands, and landscapes whose conservation is of the highest priority; conserving land in perpetuity for future generations; and engaging communities to understand and appreciate their natural environment and the importance of conservation. Our office is located on conservation land owned by the Trustees of Reservations in Leominster, MA.

A service member at North County Land Trust will be serving in a blended capacity, with 50% of time in a Community Engagement role, and 50% of time spent in a Youth Education role.

Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC) build the long-term capacity of their service sites by developing culturally inclusive systems, programing, partnerships, and events. By collaborating with community groups, CEC's demonstrate how the sustainable use and conservation of land can help address community needs related to education, public health, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, homelessness, poverty, hunger, and cultural decline. CECs may partner with homeless shelters or food pantries to build community gardens; hospitals to build wellness gardens and walking paths, neighborhood groups to revitalize urban parks and greenways; farmers markets to increase community access to locally grown food; disability groups to create wheelchair accessible outings; youth and adult groups to inspire artistic expression; public health programs to support recovery; etc. By engaging with diverse peoples and collaborating with community partners, CEC's build bridges that reinforce the connection between land and a sustainable social, economic, and environmental future for all people.

Youth Education Coordinators (YEC) build the long-term capacity of their service site by engaging youth in service learning, experiential education, and inquiry-based science and nature learning projects. They collaborate with schools, libraries, and youth groups on projects that connect young people to the natural world, improve science literacy, and encourage healthy lifestyles. YECs may help their service site to engage with educators and volunteers to guide youth in environmental inquiry and discovery, school and community garden projects, urban tree stewardship projects, urban pocket park projects, and "green jobs" training and internship programs. By serving with youth in an outdoor learning environment, they reinforce the connection between people, nature, and community and foster an inclusive land stewardship ethic in future generations.

TerraCorps members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. North County Land Trust has proposed the following potential project for their Community Engagement/ Youth Education Coordinator:

1. Improve upon and expand the successful outreach and education programs established by the previous TerraCorps members. These projects include: teaching natural science explorations within Longsjo Middle school in Fitchburg, weekly visits with the Boy and Girls Club in Gardner, and community science fair opportunities throughout the region.
2. Expand outings and education programs by cultivating relationships with local organizations, urban neighborhoods, and community groups and implementing programs that engage community members in the natural world.
3. Collaborate with NCLT staff and other TerraCorps members within the region to think strategically about engaging citizens in our communities and responding to their unique needs.

4. Develop systems and frameworks to streamline and expand capacity for North County Land Trust's communications and outreach efforts.

5. Expand and implement creative and engaging ways in which we can bring awareness of North County Land Trust and our core advocacy issues (environmental awareness, land conservation, appropriate development, human wellness, universal access and connection to nature) to new constituents.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

Essential Qualifications:

- associates degree or higher and/or certificate, training, or internship in a field related to environmental education, environmental and social justice, environmental policy and civic advocacy, or other social science related fields.
- experience teaching or leading groups in the outdoors, preferably youth
- strong presentation skills
- strong writing, communication, and networking skills
- able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- ability to represent NCLT at local events and cultivate partnerships through personal outreach and connection
- familiarity with Microsoft Office programs

Desired Qualifications:

- experience training and managing volunteers
- experience with hands-on conservation and stewardship projects
- experience with experiential education, service learning, and inquiry-based learning methods
- experience with curriculum development and lesson planning
- experience engaging with local government or civic organizations
- familiarity with land conservation in Massachusetts
- an understanding of the importance of including diverse populations in our work

For questions about NCLT's service positions, contact Anna Wilkins at 978-466-3900 or awilkins@northcountylandtrust.org.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year's TerraCorps members will serve from August 27th, 2018-July 26th, 2019. All members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 11-month term, and complete at least 1700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and service with the full TerraCorps team. Weekly service averages 37 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

As a program of AmeriCorps, TerraCorps applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

Member Compensation and Benefits

- TerraCorps members will receive a living allowance of up to \$14,000 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$583.33 per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a taxable \$5,920 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
- TerraCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: TerraCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

How to Apply

2018-2019 Service Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at terracorps.org.

A complete member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at <https://terracorps.org/become-a-member/>.

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our service sites. Do not send applications directly to a service site.

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as early as possible. Position offers and acceptances will begin in mid to late-April. The program aims to fill all positions by mid-July, but service sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled.

For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process. Email admin@terracorps.org or call 978-248-2043.

Additional Information About this Program

TerraCorps We seek to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: terracorps.org.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit americorps.gov.

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, mass-service.org) is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.