



# AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2019 – 2020 Service Description



**AmeriCorps Position Title:** Habitat Restoration, Volunteer, & Trails Associate  
**Host Site:** Conserving Carolina Southeast  
**Service Term:** September 3, 2019 – July 31, 2020

**Supervisor Name:** Pam Torlina  
**Supervisor Title:** Southeast Stewardship Manager  
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## **Host Site Mission Statement:**

Conserving Carolina, your local land trust, is dedicated to protecting and stewarding land and water resources vital to our natural heritage and quality of life and to fostering appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

## **Summary of Position:**

This position will help create a comprehensive plan to reduce the impact of non-native and invasive plant species, restoring native habitat on public protected lands. In addition, the position will involve assisting in the maintenance and establishment of public outdoor-recreation trails on public protected lands. Member service activities will include several goals: to demonstrate successful eradication of exotic plants, to organize and train volunteers, to educate the local community in practical techniques that can be used to eradicate exotics, to construct and steward publicly-accessible trails in coordination with staff and volunteers, and promote trails and habitat restoration through outreach programs including guided hikes. These goals can be accomplished by recruiting, implementing, and managing volunteers, establishing volunteer programs, and developing community conservation knowledge and skills. The purpose of member service activities is to utilizing volunteers to help restore native habitat and generate increased awareness and appreciation of the natural world.

## **Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:**

- Ability to perform somewhat strenuous manual labor outdoors and in various weather conditions
- Ability to work both independently and with a team
- Knowledge of native and non-native flora (or at least the ability to learn how to identify non-native plants)
- Ability to operate, or willingness to be trained to operate, chain saws and brush blades
- Ability to take on a leadership role
- Public speaking/facilitation skills
- Good interpersonal skills, suitable for working with volunteers and the public/Ability to connect with diverse types of organizations: schools, businesses, government, faith organizations, etc.
- Basic computer skills

- Detail-oriented and organized
- Ability to develop and implement project plans
- Ability to translate activities into an educational document
- Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States, and consent to a criminal history check.

**Preferred Service Hours / Weekly Schedule:**

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; occasional Saturday and/or weekday evening.

**Position Responsibilities and Duties**

**Conservation Education: 15%**

- Create an in-class education program that will reach school-age students about non-native and invasive plants and eradication techniques
- Create presentations to train adults/community residents/landowners in the field about non-native and invasive plants and eradication methods
- Demonstrate techniques for invasive plant eradication
- Demonstrate techniques for sustainable trail maintenance and building
- Assist in implementing existing community outreach programs, including guided hikes.

**Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP): 10%**

- Recruit volunteers for invasive species management and trail maintenance
- Train volunteers in invasive species management/eradication practices and sustainable trail building/maintenance
- Create volunteer sign-in sheets and check list
- Recognize volunteers through press releases and mentions in newsletter, social events, thank you cards/letters
- Supervise volunteer tasks

**At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts: 75%**

- Treat public lands by coordinating invasive species management and trail maintenance
- Organize activities that encourage community participation in collecting data to identify and improve at risk ecosystems by creating an invasive species inventory and eradication plan on project sites
- Organize activities that encourage community participation in sustainable trail building and maintenance
- Coordinate initiatives that engage area residents in invasive species eradication and monitoring
- Integrate effective digging techniques for eradication of exotic species
- Demonstrate efficient cutting and trimming methods for trail maintenance and exotic species management, followed by permanent eradication of exotic species
- Proper application of herbicide, when necessary, resulting in the least negative environmental impact

***PLEASE NOTE: In addition to fulfilling host site service responsibilities, all Project Conserve members are required to fully participate in team trainings, service projects and statewide AmeriCorps events. Project Conserve team events will occur approximately twice per month in locations throughout the service area and may require up to three overnight stays.***

## **Essential Functions**

**Equipment / Software Used:** Sprayer, Hand Tools, Pick Axe, Brush Cutter, Chain Saw / Microsoft Office

**Physical Demands:** Moderate with good endurance

**Transportation Needs:** Car

**Setting/Location of Service Activities:** Conserving Carolina protected lands (outdoors) & Conserving Carolina southeast office; possibly schools/summer camps

- Using computer software and online programs for conservation-based education and outreach initiatives, including social networking, written articles and press releases
- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, low-income residents, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).
- Training, supporting, coordinating, and recognizing volunteers for conservation-based volunteer opportunities.
- Conducting field-based monitoring, assessment, and management of conservation properties, public lands, and/or water quality monitoring sites.
- Using mapping software and other computer programs to create quality reports, management plans, maps, and/or analysis, based on field data