



# AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2019 – 2020 Service Description



**AmeriCorps Position Title:** Education Coordinator  
**Host Site:** RiverLink

**Service Term:** September 4, 2019 – July 31, 2020

**Supervisor Name:** Justin Young  
**Supervisor Title:** Program Manager  
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### **Host Site Mission Statement:**

RiverLink promotes the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed as a place to live, learn, work and play.

### **Summary of Position:**

RiverLink's Education Coordinator serves as the main instructor for lessons with school groups. The main goal of these lessons is to expand students' knowledge of aquatic ecosystems and empower the next generation of watershed stewards. Activities will include visual stream surveys, operating an interactive stream table, leading biomonitoring/fish electroshocking, water chemical testing and more. All lessons must integrate NC Essential Standards, STEM education methods, and inquiry based learning.

The Education Coordinator will also foster appreciation for the river as a source of creative inspiration, and a space to play and explore. They will host an art and poetry contest where students will submit work inspired by their time on the river. They will also lead 4 weeks of summer camp, where they'll guide 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders as they discover the beauty of the watershed.

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

- A college degree
- Comfort speaking to large and small groups, including children.
- Ability to work with diverse populations and neighborhoods.
- Good organization and communication skills.
- Willingness to protect and advocate for the environment
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills
- Self-motivator
- Must be outgoing and energetic
- Ability to manage time and schedules effectively.

- Valid driver's license
- Competent computer (PC/Mac) and social media skills
- An understanding of teaching methods for different age groups.
- Willingness to pursue further watershed education to fill in gaps in knowledge.
- Some prior knowledge of aquatic ecosystems and outdoor education methods is preferred.
- 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:**

This position typically works from 9AM-5PM Mondays-Fridays with some weekends. Since there is a lot of work with schools a good amount of days can start as early as 7AM.

## **Position Responsibilities and Duties**

### **Conservation Education: 80%**

- Host RiverRATS lessons with over 4,000 students throughout the school year focused on the physical, biological, & chemical aspects of stream ecology.
- Create new and continue existing methods to engage students through the use of scientific equipment, interactive learning strategies, & thoughtful reflection.
- Coordinate with organizational partners and government agencies to facilitate larger scale educational programming.
- Organize the Voices of the River: Art and Poetry Contest.
  - Create outreach materials and a marketing plan to communicate with schools and parents.
  - Recruit local judges and create a rubric for judging submissions.
  - Collect prize donations from local businesses.
  - Plan awards ceremony to be hosted at RiverLink's Earth Day Kid's Festival.
  - Work with businesses throughout the watershed to display submitted works.
- Represent RiverLink at a variety of events, seminars and workshops.
- Serve as lead counselor for French Broad RiverCamp.
  - Drive a 15 passenger van to key sites throughout the watershed.
  - Conduct forested and urban stream studies with campers.
  - Plan creative and reflective activities for campers to do between scheduled activities.
  - Join campers on recreational river activities such as tubing and rafting.
- Work with the Public Engagement Coordinator to schedule and host adult education opportunities.

### **Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP): 20%**

- Host 1 volunteer educator training per month to recruit members of the public to assist with educational activities.
- Create an evaluation system for volunteer educators to determine their effectiveness during lessons.
- Work with the Public Engagement Coordinator to lead classes in service activities after lessons, and incorporate education into public volunteer opportunities.

***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:** Computer, Stream simulation table, Backpack electrofisher, water quality testing kits, Biomonitoring sampling equipment, Adobe illustrator/photoshop, mass email and database software.

**Physical Demands:** Creek walking, ability to lift 50 lbs, ability to drive 15 passenger van, canoe experience helpful.

**Transportation Needs:** Must have a reliable vehicle.

**Setting/Location of Service Activities:** Buncombe county with some activities in Henderson, Transylvania, Madison, and Yancy counties as well.

- 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).
- Using mapping software and other computer programs to create quality reports, management plans, maps, and/or analysis, based on field data
- Other Essential Functions: Developing partnerships and relationships with other organizations, schools, and government agencies.