



AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2021 – 2022 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Stewardship Coordinator
Host Site: RiverLink

Service Term: September 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022

Supervisor Name: Renee Fortner
Supervisor Title: Watershed Resources Manager
Supervisor E-mail: renee@riverlink.org

Address: 170 Lyman St, Asheville, NC
Phone: (828) 252-8474 x 13
Fax:
Website: www.riverlink.org

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 Stewardship Coordinator works to protect and steward lands that are critical to water quality including wetland, flood plain, riparian and steep slope areas. This position will use ArcGIS to assist with land conservation activities such as easement monitoring, and baseline document reports. This position will also provide one-on-one education to conservation easement landowners and watershed residents. The stewardship coordinator will build stewardship of the river and watershed by leading service projects with community groups including river & stream cleanups, invasive plant removal, streambank plantings and more.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Proficiency with ArcGIS
- Knowledge of land trust practices; conservation easement monitoring, baseline document report writing, and stewardship of protected lands.
- Knowledge of native plant and animal species endemic to eastern North America.
- Knowledge of exotic invasive plant species and management techniques for their removal.
- Comfortable speaking to large and small groups.
- Good organization and communication skills.
- Self-motivator.
- Must be outgoing and energetic.
- Experience paddling a canoe and driving a trailer is preferred.
- The ability to walk over uneven terrain, work outside in a variety of weather conditions, use standard landscaping and hand tools, and be able to lift up to 40lbs.
- Valid driver's license.
- 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

Position Responsibilities and Duties

Conservation Education: 30%

- Provide one-on-one conservation education to RiverLink's conservation easement landowners and other watershed residents.
- Integrate education into volunteer events in the form of plant and invasive species identification, river and land use history, and water quality impacts.
- Participate in tabling events such as career days, and community festivals.
- Help Watershed Coordinator organize educational and recreational events such as adult education workshops and guided canoe trips that connect the public with local waterways and water quality issues.

Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP): 40%

- Plan volunteer events on RiverLink projects and public lands, promote these opportunities to the public, and lead the volunteers on the day of service.
- Lead volunteer information sessions aimed to recruit and educate future volunteers.
- Match volunteer groups with project needs that benefit the French Broad River and its watershed.
- Collect volunteer feedback and integrate suggestions to improve volunteer initiatives.
- Create outreach strategies to promote public opportunities to engage with RiverLink.

At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts: 30%

- Perform riparian habitat and stream restorations on public and conserved lands.
- Lead volunteers in exotic invasive plant removal and tree plantings within riparian areas of public and RiverLink conserved lands.
- Guide volunteers through streams and rivers as they work to remove trash.

Additional Comments

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: iPad, Handheld GPS unit, ArcGIS, ArcCollector, Microsoft Office Suite, Mass emailing and database software, Canoes, Tool trailer, gas powered equipment, sharp tools.

Physical Demands: Ability to lift 50 lbs, canoe paddling experience, ability to drive a trailer.

Transportation Needs: Needs personal vehicle

Setting/Location of Service Activities: French Broad River Watershed, mostly Buncombe County.

Other Considerations: Will be exposed to poison ivy and other potential hazards in the field.

- Using ArcGIS and associated apps to collect data on conserved lands. Writing reports based on field collected data.
- 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, underserved communities, and partner organizations).
- Training, supporting, coordinating, and recognizing volunteers for conservation-based volunteer opportunities.