



# AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2022 – 2023 Service Description



## Service Description

**AmeriCorps Position Title:** Stream Monitoring Coordinator  
**Host Site:** The Environmental Quality Institute

**Supervisor Name:** Madelyn Hollifield  
**Supervisor Title:** Assistant Director  
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### **Host Site Mission Statement:**

EQI collects scientific data that informs environmental understanding and decision-making. Our goals are to (1) curate comprehensive, reliable, and objective data on environmental quality in western North Carolina (WNC), (2) expand awareness about regional water quality and other environmental issues, and (3) provide technical support to nonprofits, local governments, educational institutions, and communities to drive environmental improvements.

Since 1990 EQI has monitored water quality at streams and lakes throughout WNC, providing reliable data to assist in improving the region's water quality. The Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN) is a 32-year-old program that tests for chemical, physical, and bacterial pollution in the water. The Stream Monitoring Information Network (SMIE) is a 17-year-old program that examines benthic macroinvertebrate communities to assess stream health.

### **Summary of Position:**

EQI conducts volunteer chemical and biological stream monitoring in WNC to gather data on regional water quality. The Stream Monitoring Coordinator will recruit and manage volunteers and communicate with community and organizational partners through online and print media, meetings, presentations, and outreach events. This position will assist EQI by growing the volunteer base, supporting the collection of reliable environmental data, and disseminating the results to the broader public. The position will also include participation in a wide variety of adult and youth educational events to increase the public's understanding of stream ecology, local water quality, and community science.

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

- A Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Ecology, or related science is required.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills are required.

- Detail oriented work style with ability to multi-task is required.
- Experience with stream monitoring or community science efforts is strongly preferred.
- Experience with GIS software 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:**

9:00am-5:00pm M-F (very flexible), some weekends

***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 one or two overnight stays.***

**Position Responsibilities and Duties:**

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION (40%)**

- Receive in-house training in chemical and biological sampling and analysis methods to support education efforts
- Participate in regional youth and adult education events relating to chemical and biological water quality monitoring
- Develop lesson plans relating to water quality monitoring to be implemented in classroom settings
- Assist with EQI's biomonitoring workshops each spring and fall
- Develop tools to aid in educational events, such as mapping and other visual interpretations of monitoring data

**AT-RISK ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS & TRAILS (20%)**

- Lead community members in water quality monitoring efforts, particularly benthic macroinvertebrate sampling
- Report volunteer chemical and biological monitoring results to partner organizations

**VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT (40%)**

- Recruit volunteers for biannual biomonitoring workshops, schedule and organize all volunteer field samplings each spring and fall, and maintain Quality Assurance records for the volunteers
- Recruit, train, and maintain communication with chemical monitoring volunteers and coordinate the monthly sampling in Buncombe County
- Maintain EQI's social media presence and personal communications with volunteers via email, newsletters, and presentations
- Plan volunteer appreciation activities

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

**Equipment / Software Used:** Google Workspace; ESRI ArcGIS (optional)

**Physical Demands:** Must be able to lift 20 lbs and conduct field work in streams

**Transportation Needs:** Driver's license required, along with transportation to sampling sites, sample pickup locations, and presentation venues. Carpooling is utilized when possible. Travel expenses are reimbursed by EQI.

**Setting/Location of Service Activities:** Office space is provided at EQI's laboratory in Black Mountain, with occasional field work or events in surrounding counties. EQI is a Covid-conscious workplace. Partial remote working is allowed.

**Other Considerations:** EQI will work with the AmeriCorps candidates to expand their experience in their unique interest areas. We are a small organization so individuals can support EQI's mission in many ways.

- 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