



AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2022 – 2023 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Outings, Education, and Forest Stewardship Coordinator
Host Site: MountainTrue

Service Term: September 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023

Supervisor Name: Susan Bean
Supervisor Title: Community Engagement Director
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Host Site Mission Statement:

MountainTrue champions resilient forests, clean waters, and healthy communities in Western North Carolina. We focus on a core set of issues – sensible land use, restoring public forests, clean energy, and improving water quality – that have high impact on the environmental health and long-term prosperity of our region.

Summary of Position:

The Outings, Education and Forest Stewardship Coordinator works closely with topic area experts on the MountainTrue staff to engage the public in environmental protection in Western North Carolina through guided hikes, outreach programs, on-the-ground stewardship on public lands, volunteer coordination, and environmental education. The coordinator will serve as the project lead for the OLLI Ecology of the Southern Appalachians course, our annual BioBlitz volunteer event, and our guided adventures series. This service position will require frequent travel and work outdoors to provide an opportunity to become more familiar with the Blue Ridge Mountains. The coordinator will support MountainTrue's racial equity work by creating programming specifically designed to engage communities of color in environmental conservation. The activities undertaken by this position will inform, inspire, and connect a broad public to the natural world and its delicate and often threatened ecosystems, thereby increasing general support for conservation efforts in our region.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Excellent planning and organizational skills. Attention to detail is key in this position.
- Education or experience in natural resources management, biology, or environmental science/studies/education/policy.
- Experience working with diverse people (youth, retirees, rural, urban, people of color).
- Strong time management skills.
- Ability to work outdoors and maintain a positive attitude in challenging conditions and inclement weather.
- Ability to manage multiple projects at once and maintain attention to detail.
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as independently.

- Be a quick learner, unafraid to ask questions, and also have the patience to tackle complex problems
- Familiarity with web-based programs and applications and the use of social media.
- Training and/or teaching experience a plus.
- Excellent oral (including public speaking) and written communication skills.
- Spanish language proficiency a plus.
- 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:

Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm, with occasional evening and weekend hours as needed

Position Responsibilities and Duties

Conservation Education: 65%

- Organize numerous hikes, tours, and other activities featuring MountainTrue programs and priorities such as old growth forests, ecology, water quality, land use planning and development, and others. Coordinate with topic experts on staff who will be primarily responsible for content delivery.
- Educate volunteers and members of the public through organized events and workdays provided throughout our service region of counties across Western North Carolina.
- Manage event page content for website, make regular posts to social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram, build volunteer and ticketed event sign up forms for web, compose email communications to promote events and programs, and communicate with the general public looking to engage with our programs
- Represent MountainTrue in the Everybody’s Environment Coalition and bring valuable learnings back to the organization to improve our diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Serve as the project lead and primary point of contact between participants in our OLLI Ecology of the Southern Appalachians class and the MountainTrue staff instructors.
- Participate in the community as a MountainTrue team member contributing to the success of the organization.

At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts and Trails: 15%

- Field inventory/data collection of non-native invasive plant species;
- Manual and chemical treatment of non-native invasive plants, both along trails (National Forest, AT, state, municipal) and in conservation easements;
- Chemical treatment to save ash trees from emerald ash borer
- Leading volunteers to address maintenance needs on public trails.
- Training volunteers to collect data on sedimentation from forest roads and trails

Volunteer Engagement: 20%

- Assist in the recruitment and management of volunteers, teaching them restoration techniques including manual and chemical treatment of non-native invasive plants, informing them of the risks associated, and supervising them during workdays.
- Coordinate our annual BioBlitz, which includes a 2 week virtual species hunt utilizing the iNaturalist app for identification and coordinating in-person identification events in different parts of WNC to recruit new participants and volunteers.

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: Laptop computer, wordpress website, EveryAction Digital database, social media platforms, Google Drive, ArcGIS program (if interested/experienced); GPS unit; Camera; Cruz-All; Biltmore Stick, loggers tape; pruners, saws, herbicides and other vegetation management tools; optional chainsaw work may be available

Physical Demands: Need to be able to hike 8 miles (for seasonal hiking outings), conduct field work in variable weather conditions and temperatures; insects; proximity to poison ivy; traversing boggy soil conditions and rock outcrops; thorny vegetation; carrying equipment onto and off of work sites; staying hydrated.

Transportation Needs: Personal vehicle required

Setting/Location of Service Activities: various outdoor locations in Western North Carolina, both on and off-trail; main office is in Asheville NC

- Using computer software and online programs for conservation-based education and outreach initiatives, building event sign up forms, 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.