



AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2022 – 2023 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Education Coordinator
Host Site: RiverLink

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

Supervisor Name: Justin Young
Supervisor Title: Education & Outreach 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 works with school groups and the general public to lead hands-on experiential activities throughout the watershed that expand students' knowledge of aquatic ecosystems and empower the next generation of river stewards. Activities include various stream surveys, interactive models, use of STEAM technologies, educational games, and more. All lessons integrate NC Essential Standards, STEAM education methods, and inquiry/place 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 3rd-8th graders as they discover the beauty of the watershed. This position will also help with various outreach duties such as managing social media channels.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Comfort speaking to large and small groups, particularly children.
- An understanding of equity and how it applies to the environmental and education sectors.
- Can form deep and genuine relationships with community members and organizations that have often been excluded from environmental spaces.
- Active listening skills and the ability to have open, honest, and empathetic communication with program participants and staff.
- Can manage time effectively and maintain a detailed personal schedule to help meet deadlines.
- Willingness to pursue further watershed education to fill in gaps in knowledge.

- Some prior knowledge of aquatic ecosystems, outdoor education methods, and historical/indigenous knowledge about the river is *beneficial but not required*.
- Has a 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. 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 3,000 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 market the contest to schools, parents, and media outlets.
 - 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.
- Support the development of educational program expansions such as an after school program that engages BIPOC and low-income students in their environment.
- 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 Watershed Resources Coordinator to schedule and host adult education opportunities.

Volunteer Engagement: 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 Stewardship Coordinator to host school groups for service projects, 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 called SalsaLabs,.

Physical Demands: Creek walking, ability to lift a canoe with a partner, ability to drive a 15 passenger van, *paddling experience helpful but not required.*

Transportation Needs: Must have a reliable vehicle.

Setting/Location of Service Activities: Buncombe county with some activities in Henderson, Transylvania, Madison, avery, 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, community members, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).
- Other Essential Functions: Developing partnerships and relationships with other organizations, schools, and government agencies.