

# AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2023 – 2024 Service Description

## Service Description

**AmeriCorps Position Title:** Transylvania County Natural Resources Educator  
**Host Site:** Brevard, NC

**Supervisor Name:** Bart Renner and Pam Torlina  
**Supervisor Title:** County Extension Agent/ Community Engagement Director  
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### **Host Site Mission Statement:**

NC State Extension helps create prosperity for North Carolina through programs and partnerships focused on agriculture and food, health and nutrition, and 4-H youth development.

### **Summary of Position:**

Our office is headquartered in downtown Brevard near the historic Main Street District. The AmeriCorps service member will perform duties related to educational outreach and volunteer engagement centered around the natural resources contained in the boundaries of Transylvania County. Transylvania County is over 50% protected lands including Dupont State Forest, Pisgah National Forest, and Gorges State Park.

This position will build the capacity of local organizations to conduct activities that inform and educate residents and visitors about stewardship and appropriate management of critical natural resources. Those resources include the headwaters and main stem of the French Broad River, the Little River, farmlands, parks and public recreation, and natural areas.

The member will provide critical support to the organizations and agencies working in the natural resources field, primarily Transylvania Cooperative Extension and Conserving Carolina. The Member's daily tasks will include conducting educational opportunities, creating "work and learn" volunteer work days in specified areas, promoting attendance of those events to the local communities, and preparing related media and marketing products.

The member will be expected to plan, market and conduct Riverfest, an annual established educational event celebrating the French Broad River. The member will also have the opportunity to deliver forestry programming and support to the local 4-H Forestry Clubs leading up to the Annual Forestry Bowl. The Member will also prepare and distribute media releases and conduct social media campaigns.

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

- Applicant should have some experience with managing a volunteer program, with emphasis on in-person networking and communications.
- Applicant should have a college degree or working towards a degree in the fields of, but not limited to, natural resources management, biological sciences, non-profit management, public administration.
- Applicant should have some working knowledge of the Southern Appalachian region, Southeastern Forests, and the French Broad watershed.
- 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:**

Monday through Friday 8:30AM to 5:00PM with some Saturdays

**Position Responsibilities and Duties:****CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

**Description of Member Service Activities:** Support local 4-H programs and other educational initiatives, especially forestry river conservation programming. Write supplemental columns in local newspaper Transylvania Times Outdoors page Conduct and promote Cooperative Extension educational programming. Serve as lead for Riverfest 2023 (manual will be provided).

**Percentage of Time:** 40%

**AT-RISK ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS & TRAILS**

**Description of Member Service Activities:** Stewardship support to the French Broad River Headwaters; a class A trout water, Eastern Hellbender habitat, Appalachian Elk Toe Mussel habitat through workdays, educational presentations, and advocacy to local government. Member will plan volunteer work days supporting ecological restoration at several notable areas such as Tannery Park in Brevard, Bracken Mountain Trail, Estatoe Trail, and others.

**Percentage of Time:** 20%

**VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT**

**Description of Member Service Activities:** Design and implement volunteer work days at several sites including Tannery Park, Bracken Mountain, Estatoe Trail and French Broad River. This will include planning and management of all activities including safety meetings, task assignment, and clean up.

**Percentage of Time:** 40%

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

Equipment / Software Used: Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, Social Media, Global Positioning Systems, Canoes and/or Kayaks, hand tools, (training available for power equipment).

Physical Demands: Must be able to lift 50 lbs, pilot a canoe or kayak, complete volunteer workdays such as invasive plant removal, occasional strenuous hiking, litter clean up, leading guided hikes. Other training opportunities will be provided.

Transportation Needs: Mileage for personal vehicle use will be reimbursed at the current IRS rate.

Setting/Location of Service Activities: Transylvania County, North Carolina is located in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains, south and west of Asheville. The county is surrounded by public lands: Pisgah National Forest, Gorges State Park, Toxaway Gamelands, Dupont State Forest, Headwaters State Forest, and Nantahala National Forest. Three forks of the headwaters of the French Broad River meet near the town of Rosman, flowing northeast. Service activities will take place along the river, on public lands and in the City of Brevard and Town of Rosman.ma

**Choose the essential functions of this position:**

- 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