



AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2024 – 2025 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Environmental Education & Citizen Science Assistant
Host Site: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Supervisor Name: Callia Johnson
Supervisor Title: Supervisory Education Park Ranger
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Host Site Mission Statement:

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Summary of Position:

The AmeriCorps member will be involved with leading citizen science and other environmental education programs for Kindergarten - High School students. Each season focuses on a different audience with most field trips occurring in the spring and the fall. During winter months, the AmeriCorps member may give a variety of Distance Learning and in-classroom presentations about the park's unique natural resources including data analysis, and observation and exploration activities. In the summer, the AmeriCorps member will work with local summer camps.

This position will also focus on processing and utilizing our data collected in our citizen science research projects. The research projects cover a wide array of topics including tree phenology, effects of acid deposition on salamanders, lichens, soils, streams and snails; monitoring of ground level ozone effects on sensitive plants, and monitoring for the impacts of changing weather patterns on park resources. The goal is to create new education programs and resources utilizing the data collected over the past 20 years that can be incorporated into our current selection of programs as well as for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Have a background in the scientific process and be comfortable using it in education programs
- Applicant should have some experience working with student groups, most specifically with middle or high school ages
- Be comfortable developing and presenting programs to the public including school children and adults
- Be comfortable working with Microsoft products and in a variety of on-line platforms
- Be familiar with plants and animals of the Southern Appalachian mountains or comfortable learning them
- Have the ability to juggle multiple projects, work under pressure and maintain a positive attitude

- Be prepared to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions
- Be comfortable with living and working in a remote location
- 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 – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm with some occasional Saturday or evening work

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 (85%)

- The AmeriCorps member will be involved with leading nature education programs for Kindergarten - High School students. Each season focuses on a different audience with most field trips occurring in the spring and the fall.
- During winter months, the AmeriCorps member will give Distance Learning and in-classroom presentations about the park's unique natural resources.
- In the summer, the AmeriCorps member will work with public programs focused on youth – STEM camps and culture camps.
- The AmeriCorps member will reach out to target schools to develop special programs based on that school's needs and while making use of our data collected from citizen science research projects conducted in the park. This may include in-class presentations, after school programs and possibly camp experiences for students when school is not in session. (CB)
- The AmeriCorps member will work with park staff to identify gaps in existing programs and will develop new or adapt existing curriculum to need needs. In addition to development of new programs, the AmeriCorps member will be reaching new students and hopefully new community groups and schools during their presentation of education and cultural programs for kindergarten through high school students. (CB)

AT-RISK ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS & TRAILS (15%)

- The Citizen Science Assistant will allocate time to collection and processing of data from the Park's citizen science research projects. The data will be used to relay pertinent information about the status of at-risk ecosystems and resources throughout the Park and the AmeriCorps member will work to create activities that will lead to student and citizen action to further protect those ecosystems and resources. They will support the team by creating new relationships and strengthening current contacts into more meaningful and impactful relationships with community organizations and area schools. (CB)

Essential Functions:

Essential functions are the fundamental job duties:

- *Meaning the position exists to perform the function;*
- *There is a limited number of employees among whom the performance of the function can be distributed;*
- *And/or the incumbent is hired for expertise or ability to perform the function due to its high specialization.*

Equipment / Software Used:

Physical Demands:

Transportation Needs:

Setting/Location of Service Activities:

Other Considerations:

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
- Other Essential Functions: Entering data from citizen science programs into databases and creating new materials from that data.