



AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2026 – 2027 Service Description



AmeriCorps Position Title: Environmental Education Outreach Agent
Host Site: Buncombe County Soil and Water

Supervisor Name: Rose Wall and Jen Knight
Supervisor Title: Environmental Educator
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Host Site Mission Statement:

- We promote a healthy, safe, well-educated, and thriving community with a sustainable quality of life.
- We provide effective and efficient government our residents can trust.
- We deliver needed service through a responsive work force committed to excellence, integrity, and teamwork.

Summary of Position:

The Environmental Education Outreach Agent is responsible for increasing environmental education capacity at Buncombe County Soil and Water. This position offers a unique opportunity to work at an intersection of State and County governments and experience a wide variety of environmental education programs, audiences, and stakeholders. We value equity, diversity and inclusion and aim to use that lens in all aspects of our programming.

Besides educational programming, partner engagement, and program development and organization, the member will have the opportunity to attend and present at Conservation District board meetings, attend County leadership and skill trainings, and shadow other conservation professionals in the agency.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Background in Environmental Science, Conservation, Natural Resource Management or similar.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to effectively lead, coordinate, and interact with diverse individuals in both field-based and office settings.
- Experience in developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups, such as presentations and outings, with a focus on conservation topics.

- Proficient organizational skills, including the ability to manage multiple tasks, prioritize responsibilities, and maintain detailed records essential for successful program implementation.
- Comfortable working independently and on a team.
- 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:

Most service will occur Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 and 5:00 pm, however there will be occasional evening, weekend, and early-morning events. The member has the flexibility to set a schedule that allows them to meet their essential functions.

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 (95%)

- Conduct school-based environmental education outreach programming for 1st grade
- Assist with school-based events like the 8th grade Conservation Field Days;
- Conduct public environmental outreach programming for children, adults, and families at libraries and community events;
- Assist with meadow-building and other workshops
- Assist with youth summer programming Camp RIO day camps in partnership with the Migrant Education Program and County Kinship foster system and WORX Project lessons; assist with animal ambassador care and handling.
- Review educational community needs assessment for post-Helene opportunities and gaps (CB);
- Support efforts to review and improve lesson plans especially regarding new science standards and resiliency messaging (CB);
- Expand programming to additional Buncombe County Schools (BCS), e.g. expanding 1st and 3rd grade program (CB);
- Assist with development and implementation of nature-based SEL/resiliency programming for early childhood educators, students, and families (CB).

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE (5%)

- Support Buncombe County Soil and Water District recovery efforts post-Helene. This may include helping to administer the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, creating recovery resources guides and/or informational materials on natural disaster risk/response.
- There are also opportunities to support the Farmland Preservation Program by documenting natural resources on conservation easement acquisition projects including annual monitoring visits, farm visits and creating baseline documentation reports (CB)

Essential Functions:

Equipment / Software Used: Microsoft Office, Canva

Physical Demands: Ability to lift 35 lbs and hike at a moderate pace for 2 miles

Transportation Needs: Member will have access to 2 trucks shared by Soil and Water staff. When a truck is not available, they will be expected to drive their own car and be reimbursed for mileage at the IRS mileage reimbursement rate. If this is a hardship, there is a Buncombe County vehicle fleet that we can work to check out cars for the member to use for service activities.

Setting/Location of Service Activities: Buncombe County Agriculture and Land Resources Office, schools, libraries, and other community venues.

- 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).