



**VYCC Food & Farm Program**  
**AmeriCorps Peer Crew**  
**Member**



**Vermont Youth Conservation Corps**  
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**The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)**

The VYCC is a 501c3 nonprofit service, conservation, and education organization focused on youth leadership development. Since 1985, it has provided valuable job training and education programs to more than 6,000 youth from across the country and from nearly every town in Vermont. All activities are inextricably tied to VYCC's mission – *teaching young people personal responsibility through meaningful work that connects us to the land, community, and one another*. To instill these skills and values, VYCC enrolls young people in paid work opportunities. Our model is strong and simple: Youth Corps Members work together in small groups, guided by highly trained leaders, to complete high priority projects in conservation and agriculture.

Headquartered on historic farmland, VYCC's Food and Farm program employs youth, young adults, and leaders on sustainable agriculture projects that bring hunger relief and food security to Vermont communities.

**The Health Care Share**

The Food and Farm Program's primary focus is the Health Care Share, a public health project that connects Vermont families who are unable to afford or access fresh food with a weekly share of produce. VYCC began the project in 2012 in partnership with Central Vermont Medical Center. It has since grown to serve more than 500 families at 5 major medical centers across the state, and has put more than 100 youth to work on Vermont farms. Families enrolled in the HCS are referred by their health care provider and pick up their weekly allotment of produce at their doctor's office. They also participate in nutrition counseling and culinary education. VYCC puts young people to work growing, harvesting and packing these shares while providing job skills training through this paid employment opportunity.

**Position Overview**

This A\*C Member is part of a peer-led team of 4-8 people who learn and serve together within the Food and Farm Program. There are residential and community (day) crew positions. Through service, Members contribute to all aspects of Health Care Share food production and distribution at the Farm at VYCC in Richmond, as well as across the state.

**Primary Responsibilities**

The Health Care Share is a 6 month CSA that provides families with 12 weekly shares, July – September, and 3 larger monthly shares, October – December. As such, the responsibilities of A\*C Members include, but are not limited to:

- Vegetable Production
  - Transplant, weed, harvest
  - Maintain hoophouse crops, including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and greens
  - Assist with leading community and corporate volunteer groups on field activities
- Wash, Pack & Distribution
  - Follow Food Safety protocols to wash various types of produce appropriately and efficiently
  - Assist with weekly packing of HCS shares, as well as wholesale and retail orders of foods.
  - Support VYCC A\*C VISTAs with weekly HCS distribution to medical centers
- Livestock Production
  - Care for chickens, laying hens, pigs and cows
- Construction
  - Build and maintain greenhouses, portable hoophouses, poultry pens, livestock fencing
- Off Campus Projects
  - Assist HCS farmers throughout VT with vegetable production tasks
  - Learn from the techniques of other Vermont farmers
  - Regular and on-call gleaning projects to rescue produce for use in HCS
- Farmers' Market and Other Marketing Outreach and Events

#### **Secondary Responsibilities**

All members of the Farm Team, A\*C Members included, are expected to demonstrate and practice a commitment to mentoring, guiding, and working alongside other groups working, serving and learning on the farm. A\*C Members are expected to be a positive influence while:

- Supporting Corps Members in weekly HCS tasks
- Demonstrating techniques of transplanting, weeding, harvesting, washing and packing produce
- Assisting A\*C VISTA and 1700 hour Members in facilitation of nutrition education classes

#### **2019 VYCC Farm Team**

The Farm Team consists of a Director, Manager, Program Coordinator, and SerVermont A\*C VISTA Members. Seasonal field staff include Team Leaders, and Youth Corps Members. A\*C are expected to collaborate effectively with full time Farm Program staff, fellow A\*C Members, VYCC Headquarters Staff and Conservation Crews, and volunteers. They are supported and guided by the Program Coordinator, Manger, and Director.

A successful candidate will function effectively in a team as well as independently. The VYCC is a dynamic organization, and the Farm is a place for self-motivated, passionate individuals interested in hard work, creativity, and continuous learning.

#### **Environmental Factors**

All A\*C Peer Crew Members receive training at the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont.

Community Peer Crew A\*C Members serve during the day and return home in the evening. All tools, safety and work gear are provided, as well as healthy options for a daily snack and lunch.

Residential A\*C Members live together in yurts on the VYCC property with access to showers, bathrooms, commercial kitchen, and internet. Off campus projects may call for 1-3 days of camping. Most necessary camping equipment is provided, and a gear list is available upon request. The crew uses a VYCC van and trailer to travel and transport produce and supplies.

**Qualifications**

- Be a U.S. citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S.
- Be at least 18 years of age or 17 years old with parental permission upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation (there is no upper age limit)
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps. If a member has a documented medical reason/professional opinion why they cannot finish high school, they might be eligible; call in this case
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check
- Belief in and commitment to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps mission
- Belief in and commitment to the AmeriCorps mission
- Previous experience with, or the desire to learn sustainable agriculture techniques and methodology
- Time management, organizational skills, and attention to detail
- Interpersonal and verbal communication skills
- Ability to manage complex logistics
- Physical and emotional stamina
- Written and oral communication skills
- Residential: Valid driver's license and good driving record
- Community: Reliable transportation to and from service site
- Residential: Standard First Aid and CPR or equivalent, or willingness to obtain before service
- Member must submit to criminal history checks, including AHS checks
- *The member will have access to vulnerable populations*

**Compensation**

- AmeriCorps Living Allowance of \$250 per week paid biweekly (amounts may vary by service term)
- Eligible for Segal Education Award upon completion of service (service terms vary by member – choose the applicable term below)
  - Full-time (FT) 1700 Hours: \$ 5,950
  - Half-Time (HT) 900 Hours: \$ 2,960
  - Reduced Half-Time (RHT) 675 Hours: \$ 2,255.24
  - Quarter-Time (QT) 450 Hours: \$ 1,566.14
- Residential: Seasonal, shared, on-campus housing
- Farm food allotment (produce, eggs, meat, and dry goods)
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development (monthly farm visits, NOFA workshops and trainings, etc.)
- Eligible for Health Insurance and Child Care Allowance, if applicable

**Terms of Service and Dates of Service:**

450, 675, 900 and 1700 Hours from May 20, 2019 to October 1, 2019

(Service terms and start dates vary by member. Fill in any variance in the boxes below)

Service Term:

Dates:

Printed Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Director : \_\_\_\_\_ Program Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Food & Farm Program applicants: Kyle Weatherhogg, Food and Farm program Coordinator

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