

VYCC Food & Farm Program AmeriCorps Project Lead



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 position involves both food production and programmatic aspects of the Health Care Share, including the education, engagement and training of youth crews and community volunteers.

During pre-season months, the Member focuses on Health Care Share project planning, Food & Finance curriculum refinement, and preparing for youth crews.

During the summer field season, the member will coordinate project details and logistics, facilitate Food & Finance classes, and provide a productive, safe environment for youth crews to grow and deliver Health Care Shares to partnering medical centers.

During the Fall season, the member will coordinate the remaining weeks of the Health Care Share, including arranging and leading projects for volunteers and after school youth crews.

2019 VYCC Farm Team

The Farm Team consists of a Program Director, Program Manager's, a Program Coordinator, and SerVermont A*C VISTA Members.

Seasonal field staff include Team Leaders, and Youth Corps

Members. A*C Project Leads are expected to collaborate effectively 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 Manager and Director.

A successful candidate will function effectively in a team as well as independently. The Project Lead must possess exceptional time management skills, the ability to effectively juggle competing priorities, follow through with multiple on-going responsibilities, and have a strong desire to take on a leadership role in a dynamic program.

Environmental Factors

A*C Project Leads are based out of and will receive training at the Farm at VYCC Headquarters and the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont. The VYCC office currently houses 20 full-time staff, as well as varying numbers of seasonal staff and volunteers who assist with special projects throughout the season. VYCC is an organization that cultivates success using a team approach. All VYCC team members are expected to contribute to the development and maintenance of a strong service community.

Primary Responsibilities

Each A*C Project Lead is responsible for particular food production, nutrition education, and hunger relief activities. Together, their service results in a collaborated effort to increase the health and wellbeing of Health Care Share Member-families and Youth Corps Members. Activities include:

Food Production

- Assist with development of Health Care Share vegetable production plan
- With Farm Staff support, ensure timely field preparation, vegetable planting and harvest for shares
- Coordinate food rescue for the Health Care Share and other distribution
- With Farm Staff support, ensure healthy production of pasture-raised livestock for shares
- Organize and restock vegetable production tools, supplies and equipment
- Guide volunteer groups and youth crews through all field projects

Youth Crew Support and Coordination

- Train and advise incoming team members on Health Care Share projects
- Provide technical support for crews and projects
- Provide support to Crew Leaders & Team Leaders regarding project details and logistics □ Assess and report worksite safety

- Coordinate and deliver education to crews as needed

Education and Outreach

- Assist in orientation and training of seasonal Field Staff, including youth
- Enroll member-families in the HCS with medical center clinicians
- Write weekly newsletters to include recipes, nutrition information, and cooking and storage tips
- Work with other Farm staff to market the program and projects to a variety of audiences □
Develop educational program components (i.e. nutrition education)

Qualifications

- Solid belief in and commitment to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps mission
- Solid belief in and commitment to the mission of AmeriCorps
- Previous experience with, or the ability to learn sustainable agriculture techniques and methodology
- Exceptional time management, organizational skills, and attention to detail
- Excellent interpersonal and verbal communication skills
- Ability to manage complex logistics
- Excellent physical and emotional stamina
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Valid driver’s license and good driving record
- Reliable personal vehicle
- Standard First Aid and CPR or equivalent, or willingness to obtain before service

Compensation

- AmeriCorps Living Allowance paid biweekly
- Eligible for Segal Education Award upon completion of service
- Farm Program benefits include farm food allotment
- Seasonal, shared housing available on a limited basis
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development (monthly farm visits, NOFA workshops and trainings, etc.)

Start Date:

March 2019

Member Printed Name _____ Date _____

Member Signature _____ Date _____

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