



**VYCC Conservation & Agriculture
AmeriCorps 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 crew 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 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, and harvest and wash crops
 - 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 VYCC livestock
- Construction
 - Build and maintain Farm infrastructure
- Off Campus Projects
 - Learn techniques from other Vermont farmers
 - Regular and on-call gleaning projects to rescue produce for use in HCS

2020 VYCC Farm Team

The Farm Team consists of a Director, Manager, Program Coordinator's, and SerVermont A*C VISTA Members. Seasonal field staff include Crew Leaders, and Youth Corps Members. A*C members are expected to collaborate effectively with VYCC Headquarters Staff, fellow A*C Members, Conservation Crews, and volunteers.

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 Crew Members receive training at the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont.

Community 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

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)
- 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
- Community: Reliable transportation to and from service site
- The member will have access to vulnerable populations

Excellence and Equal Opportunity at VYCC

VYCC has a deep commitment to excellence. We believe we are strongest when our team includes members with a broad range of life experiences. We strive to achieve this at all levels of our organization, and actively encourage and recruit, develop, and retain the most talented people from a diverse applicant pool. VYCC is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

Compensation & Benefits

- **AmeriCorps** Living Allowance 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: \$6,095
 - Three Quarters Time (TQT) 1200 Hours: \$4,266.50
 - Half-Time (HT) 900 Hours: \$3,047.50
 - Reduced Half-Time (RHT) 675 Hours: \$2,321
 - Quarter-Time (QT) 450 Hours: \$1,612.43
 - Minimal-Time (MT) 300 Hours: \$1,289.95
- Farm food allotment
- Organizational dedication to on-going personal and professional development
- Eligible for Health Insurance and Child Care Allowance, if applicable
- Post-employment support
- Seasonal, shared housing available on a limited basis and/or based on crew type

Terms of Service and Dates of Service:

300, 450, 675, 900, 1200 and 1700 Hours from December 1st, 2019 to November 15th, 2020
(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
Kyle.Weatherhogg@vycc.org and Andrew Whitehead, Food and Farm program manager
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