
Community Engagement Project Lead



VYCC FOOD & FARM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' Food and Farm Program is a dynamic youth development, diversified agriculture and food security initiative. At VYCC, we believe in the power that food has to connect us to the land, our community, and each other. We engage young people in organic farming and culinary education on our historic 400-acre campus in Richmond, Vermont. In 2020, the program produced 64,865 pounds of organically certified vegetables and 800 pasture raised chickens which were distributed to more than 400 families through our nationally recognized Health Care Share project. The Health Care Share is a public health initiative that connects Vermont families who experience barriers to accessing locally grown produce or have a diet-related disease with a weekly vegetable share they pick up at partnering medical centers. We also raise laying hens for eggs, pigs for meat, and additional vegetables, flowers, and herbs that we sell through our vibrant, on-site farm stand. Each year the program provides approximately 65 employment opportunities to youth and young adults from Vermont and around the country who are essential to the daily operations of the farm. In addition to farming, the program has a strong food culture which seeks to deepen the connection between the work we do in the field and the food on our plates. In addition to preparing a lunch together from the farm every work day, we also gather as a larger community to cook and share celebratory meals sourced from our farm. All members work together to support the Food and Farm Program's impactful role within Vermont's thriving agriculture and food community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT LEAD

The AmeriCorps Project Lead position plays a key role in the Food and Farm Program. As a part of a six-member cohort, this nine-month residential position is an immersive experience in diversified agriculture, public health, food systems, and youth development. Each member of the Project Lead group is responsible for a specific area of focus – vegetable production, community health, cooking and nutrition, post-harvest or community engagement. Together, their service results in a collaborative effort to mentor youth and young adults while increasing the health and well-being of Vermont communities.

The Community Engagement position is responsible for supporting food production, food security and youth development activities. This position has an emphasis on engaging volunteers, school groups, and community members in the VYCC Food & Farm program as well as supporting farm stand operations.



POSITION OVERVIEW

- Support, teach and oversee groups of volunteers and community members in farm activities with support from the Farm Program Coordinator:
 - Facilitate campus tours for volunteers and community members
 - Develop and refine the volunteer “experience” for school groups, volunteers, and community member’s visiting VYCC campus to ensure a consistent, high quality experience
 - Create a welcoming and educational environment on the farm through communication of context, instruction, safety, community norms, expectations and help to improve farm signage
- Support farm sales:
 - Operate and improve the farm stand with a focus on quality and consistency with support from the Farm Production Manager
 - Support Crew Member engagement with farm stand operations
 - Improve farm stand accessibility with support from Community Health Program Manager
 - Fulfill wholesale orders in collaboration with Production and Post-Harvest project leads with support from the Farm Production and Program Managers

COMPENSATION:

- Weekly living stipend of \$375 a week (approximately \$1500 a month)
- Segal Education Award of \$6,195 upon AmeriCorps service completion
- Shared on-site housing included on our gorgeous 400-acre campus surrounded by mountains and swimming holes, just a 20-minute drive from Burlington
- Incredibly fresh vegetables, eggs, and meat from the farm
- Allotted Days Off

SERVICE TERM: March 1 through November 12, 2021

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: Complete our [online application](#) where we will ask you to attach a cover letter, resume and three (3) references.

Should you have questions, please contact Andrew (andrew.whitehead@vycc.org).