



WE ARE LOOKING FOR GREAT LEADERS LIKE YOU!

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps | 1949 East Main St. Richmond, VT 05477 | 802-434-3969 | Info@VYCC.org |

VYCC Food & Farm Program AmeriCorps Community Engagement Project Lead

Program Overview

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps' Food and Farm Program is a dynamic youth development, diversified agriculture and food security initiative. 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 where we grow organically certified vegetables and pasture-raised chickens that are 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 component which seeks to deepen the connection between the work we do in the field and the food on our plates. These projects are made possible through VYCC's partnership with AmeriCorps (A*C) and SerVermont.

Position Summary

Everyone on the Food and Farm Team works together to support the Health Care Share initiative, the food program initiative, and overall maintenance of the farm, but each Project lead also focuses on specific areas of the Food and Farm Program.

The Community Engagement Project Lead is responsible for supporting food production, engaging in food security and in youth development activities. This position has an emphasis on leading volunteers, school groups, and community members. Additional responsibilities

include supporting the cohort of Assistant Crew Leaders in their service experience.

Essential Functions

In addition to their specific area of focus, all A*C Project Leads work together on many Food and Farm Program activities. Together, they serve to increase the health and wellbeing of Health Care Share Member-families and Youth Corps Members. Activities include:

Food & Farm Operations

- With Farm Staff support, ensure timely field preparation, vegetable planting, and harvest for Health Care Shares
- Coordinate and organize logistics with Farm Team members for successful daily and weekly farm operations
- Coordinate and lead groups of volunteers and community members in farm production activities with support from the Farm Program Coordinator
- With Farm Staff support, ensure healthy production of pasture-raised livestock
- Organize and maintain tools, supplies, and equipment
- Follow all VYCC policies and procedures to maintain a safe service site
- Participate as a member of the Farm Team, alongside Farm Staff, other Project Leads, and Crew Leaders
- Refine the volunteer experience for school groups, volunteers, and community members 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 and expectations

Education and Outreach

- Assist in orientations and trainings for Crew Members
- Develop and deliver activities and lessons for crews, volunteers, and the public
- Participate in A*C Member Orientation, including trainings on prohibited and allowable/unallowable activities
- Participate in SerVermont events

Leader Support

- Provide support and mentorship to the five Assistant Crew Leaders (ACLs) throughout service term
- Lead activities with the cohort of five ACLs that builds their leadership and farming skills

Communication

- Capture photos and videos of daily operations and programming
- Create social media postings that tell the story of our program and the Health Care Share
- Support communication to all visitors on the farm by ensuring accurate and informative signage

Required Qualifications

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Be a U.S. citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident non-citizen of the U.S.
- Be willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check and have not been convicted of murder or sexual assault
- Be willing to undergo a criminal history check, including VT Agency of Human Services check. The member will have access to vulnerable populations.
- Valid driver's license and good driving record
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement
- Commitment to VYCC's mission, including the Health Care Share project
- Commitment to the mission of AmeriCorps and SerVermont

Weekly Schedule

Project Leads will serve an average of 45 hours/week, Monday-Friday, 8.5 hours/day. Exact hours change with the season, including early morning starts during peak summer season. Hours will typically be between 6:00am-5:00pm, with occasional evening and weekend hours for chores or events.

About The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)

The VYCC is a 501c3 nonprofit that provides valuable work and learning opportunities to youth and young adults from across the country and throughout Vermont. Our model is simple and effective: young people, working together, in the outdoors, on conservation and agriculture projects that have a high impact.

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.

Work Environment

A*C Project Leads are based out of the Farm at VYCC Headquarters and the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, Vermont. Corps Members spend most of their time outdoors, serving with their crew while also interacting with project sponsors, community members, and VYCC staff.

Prohibited Activities: In accordance with 45CFR 2520.65, AmeriCorps members may not perform prohibited service activities directly or indirectly while in service. The prohibited activities are outlined in one's Member Service Agreement

Compensation & Benefits:

- AmeriCorps Living Allowance paid biweekly:
 - Residential members: \$438/week
 - Non-residential members: \$528/week
- Eligible for Segal Education Award upon completion of service: \$4,441.50
- Access to fresh produce from the farm
- Potential for shared housing for the duration of service
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development
- Potential eligibility for student loan forbearance and interest payment

Term of Service and Dates of Service:

1200 Hour (Three-Quarter Time) terms from March 14th, 2022-October 21st, 2022.

Service terms and start dates vary. Fill out applicable responses in the spaces below:

Service Term: _____

Living Allowance Amount: _____

Printed Member Name: _____ Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Director: _____ Program Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Food & Farm Program applicants:

Katie Robertson, Program Manager

Katie.Robertson@vycc.org

1949 East Main Street Richmond, VT 05477



AmeriCorps