



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 Production 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 two Production Project Leads support crop production for the duration of the season, from planning to harvest, including training and supporting crews in the field. Their

additional responsibilities include livestock management, maintaining and using farm equipment, and general farm upkeep.

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

- Support the implementation and refinement of crop plans
- With Farm Staff support, ensure timely field preparation, vegetable planting, and harvest for Health Care Shares
- Support all aspects of livestock production operations including chicken processing
- Coordinate and organize logistics with Farm Team members for successful daily and weekly farm operations
- Maintain detailed production and farm maintenance records
- Support, teach, and oversee program participants and groups of volunteers in growing, harvesting, preparing, and distributing farm products for the Health Care Share, farm stand, and wholesale
- Follow all VYCC policies and procedures to maintain a safe service site including safe operation of tractors, mowers, and other farm equipment
- Participate as a member of the Farm Team, alongside Farm Staff, other Project Leads, and Crew Leaders

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

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

- Prior experience in production agriculture

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

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Richmond, VT 05477



AmeriCorps