Conservation Program

AmeriCorps Day Crew Member

Program Overview
VYCC’s Conservation Program engages young people in hands-on projects that benefit Vermont’s environment and communities. The work of a Conservation Crew includes trail construction and maintenance, carpentry, water quality improvement, and forest management. Conservation Crew Members are essential to the success of any Conservation Crew and their efforts have a significant impact on habitat, water quality, and outdoor recreation in Vermont. These projects are made possible through VYCC's partnership with AmeriCorps.

Position Summary
VYCC is seeking Crew Members to serve on Conservation Crews and make a difference in communities throughout Vermont. A successful Crew Member is excited to be part of a supportive and inclusive crew community, navigate and learn from challenges, and strive towards personal and professional growth. AmeriCorps Crew Members are essential to the success of VYCC’s conservation projects. If you are excited to work and learn on a camping crew while making communities and individuals more resilient, this service opportunity is for you!

Essential Functions

Crew Community Building
- Help create a supportive and inclusive crew community by participating in crew activities and supporting fellow crew members
- Engage with personal and crew goals through goal setting, reflection and feedback
- Follow all principles, practices and policies of VYCC and AmeriCorps
- Be part of a team made up of diverse individuals
- Work hard in all types of weather and environments
- Ability to adapt, grow and move outside of comfort zones
- Participate in daily crew chores and tasks at the worksite

Project Accomplishments
- Complete meaningful conservation projects including, but not limited to: Trail construction and maintenance, water quality, carpentry, and forest projects
- Serve approximately 40 hours/week on projects

Education and Training
• Participate in a variety of trainings, including VYCC and AmeriCorps Orientations and additional enrichment activities. These training hours will not exceed 20% of the total number of member hours
• Participate in learning and growth opportunities throughout service
  
  **Safety**
• Perform service safely in all weather conditions, including bringing all safety gear to the project site and using tools and equipment properly
• Maintain a drug-free worksite

**Required Qualifications**
• Be at least 17 years of age
• Be a U.S. citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident non-citizen of the U.S.
• Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement
• Have not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and be willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check. The member will have access to vulnerable populations
• Commitment to the mission of AmeriCorps and The Corps Network
• Ability to transport self to daily meet-up location

**Preferred Qualifications**
• Clear and effective communication skills
• Ability to care for self physically, emotionally, and socially
• An interest in making a positive impact through VYCC

**Equal Opportunity at VYCC**
VYCC is committed to being an organization that is inclusive and welcoming for all employees, volunteers, and community members.

**Weekly Schedule**
Members serve Monday – Thursday, 10 hours daily. Hours are between 7:00am and 5:00pm. Occasionally, Crew Members will have responsibilities on Fridays or Saturdays including additional trainings, mid-season derigs, and end of season closure events. Each day includes a ½-hour lunch break that does not count towards service hours.

**Work Environment**
Corps Members spend most of their time outdoors, working with their crew while also interacting with project sponsors, community members, and VYCC staff.

Corps Members will usually meet at the VYCC Campus or the Richmond Park and Ride each day. From the meet up spot, VYCC provides transportation to the project site.
Project sites are typically within an hour-long drive time from the meet up location. Project sites include but are not limited to local municipal parks, state conserved land, and/or the VYCC Campus.

**Compensation & Benefits:**
- Weekly stipend: $465
- Education Award on completion of service:
  - 300 (minimal-time) term: $1,374.6
- Potential eligibility for student loan forbearance and interest payment
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development
- Career pathways support through VYCC’s Community Engagement Manager and program staff

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