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Build community
Work & learn
With the land



AmeriCorps



VERMONT
YOUTH
CONSERVATION
CORPS

VYCC Food & Farm Program AmeriCorps Crew Member

Program Overview

VYCC's Food & Farm Program is a youth development, diversified agriculture and food security initiative. We believe in the power that food has to connect us with the land, our community, and each other.

On the farm, young people engage in the daily tasks of organic vegetable farming. The produce grown by Corps Members is distributed to more than 400 families through the Health Care Share project – a public health initiative that connects Vermont families to locally-grown produce through their medical provider. Patients who may have nutrient-related illness or have barriers to accessing fresh produce receive a weekly share of fresh food. We also raise laying hens for eggs, chickens for meat, and additional vegetables, flowers, and herbs that we sell through our vibrant, on-site farm stand.

In addition to the work Corps Members do in the farm fields, they also spend time in the kitchen learning cooking skills. Working with the food they've grown, they explore different recipes and help prepare a daily lunch that is served to all farm crews, connecting the work in the fields to the food on their plates.

These projects are made possible through VYCC's partnership with AmeriCorps and SerVermont. This is an AmeriCorps position funded through an AmeriCorps State grant.

Position Summary

VYCC is seeking Food & Farm AmeriCorps Crew Members who are interested in getting their hands in the dirt by working and learning on an organic vegetable and poultry farm. A successful Crew Member can be a part of a supportive and inclusive crew community, navigate and learn from challenges, and strive towards personal and professional growth. Crew Members engage in hands-on work on the farm that ranges from soil preparation and transplanting, to weeding and harvesting, to washing and packing vegetables. Additional opportunities include gaining culinary skills through the Food Program's team lunch and participating in daily animal chores.

AmeriCorps Crew Members are essential to the success of the Health Care Share and the daily operations of the farm. If you are excited to work on a farm while having a positive impact on communities and individuals, this service opportunity is for you! The

AmeriCorps Crew Member position is a learning opportunity for current high school students or recent graduates (ages 17+).

Essential Functions

Crew Member Duties

- Foster teamwork and respect fellow Crew Members
- Follow all principles, practices and policies of VYCC and AmeriCorps
- Contribute to a crew culture that prioritizes physical and emotional safety
- Be part of a team made up of diverse individuals
- Adapt, grow and move outside of comfort zones
- Willingness to work outdoors and in all types of weather

Project Accomplishments

- Contribute to farm projects including vegetable production (transplanting, weeding, harvesting, and washing crops), packing weekly shares, and caring for VYCC livestock
- Collaborate with Food & Farm Team to prepare Farm Team lunch in a rotating schedule
- Serve alongside other crews, volunteers, and the Farm Team
- Maintain production, quality, and safety standards

Education and Training

- Participate in AmeriCorps Orientation and scheduled training throughout term of service. These training hours will not exceed 20% of the total number of member hours
- Engage in learning and enrichment opportunities across all parts of the Food & Farm Program
- Attend SerVermont events

Communication & Reporting

- Complete timesheets in a timely manner, due biweekly on Fridays
- Engage with personal and crew goals through goal setting, reflection and feedback processes through mid-term and end-term performance evaluations with supervisor
- Maintain regular, effective communication with Crew Leader, Summer Crew Leader, and crew

Work Environment

Crew Members spend most of their time outdoors, serving with their crew while also interacting with community members, and VYCC staff. They serve daily at VYCC's farm, located in Richmond, Vermont.

Weekly Schedule

Farm AmeriCorps Crew Members will serve an average 34 hours/week, Monday-Thursday, 8.5 hours/day.

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.
- Have not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and be willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check and a VT Agency of Human Services check. The member will have access to vulnerable populations
- Be a high school graduate, have a GED certificate, or be currently enrolled in high school or working towards the GED
- Commitment to VYCC's mission, including the Health Care Share project
- Commitment to the mission of AmeriCorps and SerVermont

Equal Opportunity at VYCC

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

Compensation & Benefits

- AmeriCorps Living Allowance paid biweekly: \$373/week
- Segal Education Award upon completion of service: \$1,459.26
- Access to fresh produce from the farm
- Organizational dedication to on-going professional development
- Career pathways support during and after the VYCC experience provided by the Community Engagement Manager
- Potential eligibility for student loan forbearance and interest payment

Terms of Service and Dates of Service:

300-hour (Minimum-time) term from June 17, 2024- August 15, 2024

Name:	Date:
Signature:	

Food & Farm Program applicants:

Katie Robertson, Program Manager

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