



TERRACORPS

TerraCorps is an AmeriCorps affiliated start-up environmental non-profit preparing and mobilizing emerging leaders to help communities gain access to and conserve land for people and nature. Working at the intersection of the land conservation and urban agriculture movements, our vision is to create a future where land is the foundation of health and well-being for ALL people in EVERY community.

This year's TerraCorps program will support up to 60 full-time AmeriCorps Members across Massachusetts and Rhode Island each serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Land Conservation Coordinator (LCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator (SAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 29th, 2022-July 28, 2023) in which they complete at least 1,700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2022-2023 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at <https://terra Corps.org/>.

Land Stewardship Coordinator with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

1461 Old Keene Road
Athol, MA 01331
mountgrace.org

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (Mount Grace) conserves significant farms, woodlands, and wild areas in North Central and Western Massachusetts for the benefit of the environment, the economy, and future generations. Mount Grace has helped to protect over 32,000 acres of land in our twenty-three town region comprised of small rural communities and larger urban centers. We are nationally recognized for projects that conserve entire landscapes and watersheds. We create innovative solutions that keep farmland undeveloped and affordable for farmers. We partner with community groups and schools to ensure that everyone has access to the outdoors and meaningful experiences in nature.

COVID-19 Information— Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust strongly recommends that staff and TerraCorps Service Members be fully vaccinated before the start of the TerraCorps service year. The reason we are strongly recommending vaccination is because Members will spend a significant amount of time serving in-person with volunteers, staff, or community members, therefore the expectation is that all staff and AmeriCorps Members are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) Build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. They organize, train, and collaborate with municipal boards, neighborhood and civic associations, community members, youth groups, and schools to care for, improve access to, and support the long-term resiliency and sustainable

use of community lands. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, they increase resources for community projects, demonstrate environmentally responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and nurture an inclusive sense of public ownership in the local landscape. LSCs generally spend roughly 60% of their time in the office and 40% in the field.

TerraCorps Members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers **Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:**

- 1) Support the development of Stewardship Plans on Mount Grace-owned properties. The plans would include general property information, focused information on important features, ecological and cultural inventories, and a list of long and short term goals for strategic management of the conservation areas. Outreach to partners and connection to conservation tools will assist with creating the ecological and cultural property inventories.
- 2) Create a user-friendly tree health ID guide to forest invasives and diseases typically found in the Mount Grace service area. The guide would be targeted for use by stewardship volunteers and conservation restriction landowners.
- 3) Organize forest management outreach events that engage the communities we serve with the active management projects on our properties (pre- and post-harvest walks, invasive species control workdays, educational events about our Warwick, MA slash-wall forest regeneration project)
- 4) Partner with volunteers and community groups to enhance the quality and type of public access on Mount Grace-owned properties. Activities may include building and mapping trails, creating a canoe launch, maintaining an accessible trail, and organizing volunteer stewards to care for recreational amenities.
- 5) Assist with vital stewardship activities, including maintaining pollinator gardens at Mount Grace's headquarters, conducting annual property monitoring visits in person and remotely, supporting the Volunteer Steward Program, developing relationships with private landowners, updating reports, and being an effective ambassador for Mount Grace's stewardship program in the community.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the Member's interests and skills.

Required AmeriCorps Qualifications

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps Member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

Desired Qualifications

- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Able to walk 3-4 miles a day over uneven terrain in a range of weather conditions and navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units
- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above. For example, experience related to:

- Computer software programs, such as ArcPro, Landscape conservation software, Lens remote monitoring software, Zoom, and Microsoft Office
- Organizing, training and leading outreach events and project workdays with volunteers
- Identifying Massachusetts plant and wildlife species

For questions about Mount Grace’s LSC service position, contact Tessa Dowling at dowling@mountgrace.org.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

All Members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 11-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and several service days with the full TerraCorps cohort. Weekly service averages 38 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

Member Compensation and Benefits

- TerraCorps Members will receive a living allowance of up to \$18,500 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$740 (pre-tax) per 25 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists Members in obtaining health insurance coverage. Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps Members receive a taxable \$6,495 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-americorps-education-award> for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps Members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps Members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
- TerraCorps Members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: TerraCorps Members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

How to Apply

To apply for this position and to learn more about other TerraCorps service Member opportunities, please visit the following page on the TerraCorps website at <https://terracorps.org/member-position-listing/>.

Note: A complete Member application includes a resume and two professional or academic references that you will upload as part of your application.

Member applications will be collected by TerraCorps and shared with Service Sites. **Do not send applications directly to a Service Site.**

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as soon as possible once applications are posted in May 2022. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by mid-July, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps please email spollock@terracorps.org.

Additional Information About this Program

TerraCorps seeks to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: <https://terracorps.org/>.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 people in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps Members help communities tackle pressing problems and, also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. [To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit americorps.gov.](#)

TerraCorps is a grant-funded program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the AmeriCorps federal agency. TerraCorps is also supported in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance in MA and Serve RI in Rhode Island.