



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).

Norman Bird Sanctuary 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 Norman Bird Sanctuary

Norman Bird Sanctuary

583 Third Beach Rd
Middletown, RI
Normanbirdsanctuary.org

Established in 1949 through a bequest made by Mabel Norman Cerio, Norman Bird Sanctuary's mission is to maintain the land "for the propagation, preservation, and protection of birds, and where birds and bird life may be observed, studied, taught, and enjoyed by lovers of nature and by the public generally so interested in a spirit of humanity and mercy." Thanks to decades of community support, Norman Bird Sanctuary has grown to 300 acres of thriving wildlife habitat and serves as a leader in Rhode Island environmental education. The Norman Bird Sanctuary is a community nonprofit organization that has impacted the quality of life on Aquidneck Island and across the state for more than 70 years.

Historically, thousands of community members visit the Norman Bird Sanctuary each year and thousands of schoolchildren participate in nature-based education programs. This includes visits to our campus and 7 miles of trails, major events, such as our Harvest Fair, and educational offerings including our summer camp. The community served can best be summarized by examining our membership. Our total number of memberships has increased over recent years to nearly 1,400 household memberships and, including individual members, we have a total membership of nearly 1,700. While over 80% of these are from Rhode Island the remainder comes from 24 other states in the United States.

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. **Norman Bird Sanctuary has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:**

- 1) Along with the TerraCorps Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), will assist in site assessment, planning and the alignment of two new trails: the Coastal Loop Trail and the Cultural History trail. The LSC will organize a volunteer group in clearing areas pertaining to the two new trails.
- 2) Participate in habitat restoration and invasive plant management on the 300-acre property including the Coastal habitat known as the Third Beach Dune ecosystem. Planting, monitoring, and education is key to the success of this project. This dune ecosystem is rich with diversity including Piping Plover nesting habitat. An Invasive Plant Management Plan was compiled by an environmental consulting firm to identify, strategize, and implement the short- and long-term management of invasive plants at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. The control is strictly mechanical; no pesticides are used on the property. We are in our seventh year of addressing objectives laid out in the Plan and continue our effort to increase plant diversity on our property as well as educating neighbors of the importance of biodiversity.
- 3) Create a campus-wide sustainability plan to assure best practice on the land and the facility.

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, for recurring access to vulnerable populations, including a search of the National Sex Offenders Public Website, a Rhode Island criminal record check, state of residence if different than Rhode Island, and a finger-print based FBI background check

Desired Qualifications

- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Comfort navigating computer software programs such as ArcGIS and Excel

- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Ability to complete outdoors tasks in all types of weather, and experience with natural systems and identifying plant species
- Interest in and passion for land conservation, as well as experience with natural systems and identifying plant species
- Ability to lift 40 pounds, navigate uneven terrain, and perform trail and habitat restoration with hand tools

For questions about the Norman Bird Sanctuary Land Steward coordinator position contact Joseph McLaughlin (jmclaughlin@normanbirdsanctuary.org) 401 846-2577 ext. 412

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 <http://www.americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-ameri-corps-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.