



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).

The Westerly Land Trust will host a Youth Education Coordinator for the 2022-23 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terrakorps.org.

Youth Education Coordinator with Westerly Land Trust

The Westerly Land Trust

PO Box 601
Westerly, RI 02891
westerlylandtrust.org

The Westerly Land Trust (WLT) works to conserve open space, revitalize culturally significant properties, and provide environmental programs for the enduring benefit of our community. Since being established in 1987, WLT has conserved 1,700 acres of conservation lands in the town of Westerly. Our 31 properties consist of upland forests, wetlands, grasslands, salt marshes, and downtown urban spaces like our community garden. In 2017, WLT was awarded national accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission, becoming one of only six accredited land trusts in Rhode Island at the time.

In addition to land conservation, the Westerly Land Trust has a strong focus on environmental education and community engagement. WLT is one of the only land trusts in Rhode Island with an active youth education program, and the only one that is an active member of Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA). Since 2016, we have connected with more than 3,000 students in our community. We firmly believe that environmental respect and protection begins at a young age, so it is our goal to inspire the next generation of land conservationists. Also, while WLT was founded to conserve land, we have evolved into a well-rounded community asset with commitments and goals not only focused on our environment, but on our community's mental and physical health and well-being.

WLT recognizes that many of Westerly's students are struggling, both now amidst the pandemic and in normal times. Prior to the irregularities of 2020, WLT had set the groundwork to offer programming aimed at the underserved populations, especially during the after-school timeframe when parents often struggle to find quality childcare. The pandemic opened even more educational gaps, but because of WLT's preparedness, we sprang into action to be a resource for our community at this difficult time. Our current motivation is two-fold: 1.) connecting the underserved population with safe, effective, and stimulating afterschool options (both now and in times of normalcy) and 2.) augmenting the current school curriculum to make up for the irregularities of the past three school years. WLT also works with local schools to align school curriculum to the appropriate WLT properties for academic field trips.

Additionally, the Member will help coordinate a wide range of public programs promoting active, healthy lifestyles and environmental awareness, including monthly All Ages guided hikes, weekly Thursday Hikes/Paddles, owl programs, birding events, discussions and lectures, and our popular Farmers Market and Community Garden.

Youth Education Coordinators (YEC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Site by engaging youth in service learning, experiential education, and inquiry-based science and nature learning projects. They collaborate with schools, libraries, and youth groups on projects that connect young people to the natural world, improve science literacy, and encourage healthy lifestyles. By serving with youth in an outdoor learning environment, they reinforce the connection between people, nature, and community and foster an inclusive land stewardship ethic in future generations.

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. **The Westerly Land Trust has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Youth Education Coordinator:**

1. Using nature as the educational platform, design and implement environmental programs aligned to standards such as Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and STEM-based education.
2. Lead field trips, afterschool extended learning, summer, and community programming with WLT staff, volunteers, and interns.
3. Develop environmental educational resources and adventures that are unique to WLT preserves and made available for the community (i.e. teachers/families) to access through our website and Trails App at their own leisure.
4. Seek, expand, and partner with local nature experts to be featured on WLT Podcasts and WLT public workshops/ events.
5. Create informative public workshops that focus on WLT best practices specific to our preserves.
6. Connect with the larger Westerly community through WLT's Community Garden and Farmers Market.

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 including Microsoft Office
- Training and experience pertinent to the Youth Education Coordinator position and projects outlined above
- Experience training and/or educating community members and volunteers
- Experience teaching or leading groups in the outdoors, preferably youth
- Comfort working with the public and taking a leadership role when appropriate
- Experience with curriculum development and lesson planning a plus

For questions about the Westerly Land Trust's service positions, contact Lauren Barber at lbarber@westerlylandtrust.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

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