



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).

Perkins School for the Blind will host a Youth Education Coordinator for the 2022-23 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at <https://terracorps.org/>.

Youth Education Coordinator with Perkins School for the Blind

Perkins School for the Blind

175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472
perkins.org

Perkins School for the Blind main campus is located in Watertown, MA, where this service Member position will provide in-person service. Perkins was founded in 1829 and has worked to advocate for and serve children and youth with multiple disabilities and visual impairments (MDVI) since that time. Perkins mission is to prepare children and young adults who are blind, deafblind, or visually impaired, including those who have additional disabilities, with the education, confidence and skills they need to reach their full potential. Perkins works in 97+ countries around the world. Perkins has many different program lines, including its three schools (Deafblind, Lower and Secondary) which fall under its educational programs, as well as the Braille and Talking Book Library, Perkins International, Perkins Access and Perkins Solutions. Perkins campus, located in Watertown MA is comprised of 38 acres and includes a greenhouse, some vegetable and pollinator gardens. Programming at Perkins includes a vocational horticulture program for our Secondary students focused on Training MDVI youth in various aspects of horticulture. Perkins also maintains the quarter-mile Braille Trail installed adjacent to campus on public land owned by DCR along the Charles River as part of Watertown's Waterfront Park.

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. Perkins School for the Blind has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Youth Education Coordinator:

- 1) Build a volunteer leadership team to focus on supporting volunteer recruitment, engagement and training for key ongoing volunteer areas associated with youth and horticulture.
- 2) Design and as possible implement interpretive signs for youth engagement with outdoor science and horticulture on the Perkins campus, including Braille labels for our youth gardens and other key engagement areas around campus and in conjunction with CEC for the Braille Trail.
- 3) Document aspects of the horticulture vocational programs curriculum that would support volunteer engagement with students, especially including tips for working with MDVI students.

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
- Comfort navigating computer software programs. Basic computer skills desired including navigation of Microsoft Office/Google Docs. Salesforce knowledge is a plus.
- Training and experience pertinent to the Youth Education Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Experience with experiential education, service learning, and inquiry-based learning methods
- Understanding of natural systems: gardening, farming, healthy ecosystems
- Experience understanding and bridging difference, especially within youth populations

For questions about Perkins's service positions, contact Lisa Mosca at volunteers@perkins.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-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.