



## 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, 8-month terms (December 5th, 2022-July 28, 2023) in which they complete at least 1,200 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 East Quabbin Land Trust 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 the East Quabbin Land Trust

#### **East Quabbin Land Trust**

P.O. Box 5, 120 Ridge Road

Hardwick, MA 01037

<https://EQLT.org>

The East Quabbin Land Trust works to foster the sustainable use of our natural and historic resources for the benefit of all generations through the conservation and stewardship of the farms, woods and waters in our region of Massachusetts. We envision a regional community that continues to care for its natural environment and supports a sustainable local economy, ensuring a high quality of life for generations to come. The work of the East Quabbin Land Trust is focused in central Massachusetts, an area with a diverse landscape of rivers, villages, rolling farmland, forested highlands, wetlands and working communities. We know that engaging with people of all ages is critical to ensure long-term conservation of these lands and the ability to continue to support our communities. Since 1994, the East Quabbin Land Trust has protected over 5,000 acres by working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trusts. The East Quabbin Land Trust owns over 1,500 acres and several miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail, on which we host walks, talks and numerous opportunities to engage in the outdoors with others.

The East Quabbin Land Trust office is set in the Town of Hardwick, with rolling farm fields and managed woods all around. We look over the Ware River valley, and gain inspiration from the many conserved properties in the viewshed and region. The small staff and dedicated volunteers at the East Quabbin

Land Trust are mission-driven, always striving to engage more people of all ages and abilities in the care and conservation of our lands. We take risks, we try new things, and we have fun doing this work as we make lasting changes.

**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 East Quabbin Land Trust has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Youth Education Coordinator:

- 1) Engage youth in tree planting to improve public health and well-being
- 2) Expand engagement, the arts and learning on the Mass Central Rail Trail and other preserves
- 3) Engage youth in creating children's literature projects that impart messages about land conservation or stewardship themes in Massachusetts
- 4) Engage youth in taking photographs of conserved lands to promote public awareness of these special places and the work of land trusts
- 5) Create videos highlighting youth impacts on EQLT preserves
- 6) Develop a family walking program that uses social media to reach new audiences
- 7) Expand and enhance programs for growing food with local schools
- 8) Develop curriculum for summer camp days on conservation land
- 9) Expand internship and externship opportunities through the local high schools

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 (Microsoft Office programs)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Youth Education Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Strong interest/ experience with hands-on land management or stewardship projects
- Experience with curriculum development and lesson planning

- Flexible and positive attitude and commitment to learning from and engaging with the volunteers and staff at the East Quabbin Land Trust to affect real change in our region

For questions about East Quabbin Land Trust’s service positions, contact Cynthia Henshaw at [chenshaw@EQLT.org](mailto:chenshaw@EQLT.org).

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

All Members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 8-month term, and complete at least 1,200 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 \$13,320 (pre-tax) over the 8-month term of service, which is \$740 (pre-tax) per 18 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 \$4,546.50 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See <https://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 September 2022. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by mid-November, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps please email [spollock@terracorps.org](mailto: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.