



TERRACORPS

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 eighty-eight full-time AmeriCorps Members across three states (MA, RI, and CT), serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Collaboration Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator (SAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 31st, 2020-July 30, 2021) 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).

Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust will host a Land Stewardship/Community Engagement Coordinator for the 2020-2021 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

Land Stewardship/ Community Engagement Coordinator with Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust

Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust

318 Chase Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747
dnrt.org

The Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) was founded as an all-volunteer land trust in 1971 with a mission to preserve and protect Dartmouth's natural resources for people and nature, forever. DNRT owns 58 fee properties totaling more than 1,700 acres in the town of Dartmouth. In addition to beautiful natural landscapes, our fee properties include active farmland, blueberry fields, a historic gristmill, and a unique daffodil field. DNRT manages 37 miles of trails where visitors can hike, bike, horseback ride, and walk their dogs. We offer programming for all ages that showcases the diversity of flora and fauna found on our nature reserves and emphasizes wellness for both the body and the mind.

DNRT's headquarters is located in a beautifully restored 1830s farmhouse located on 40 acres of active farmland. Our staff of five provides a friendly, relaxed, and professional work

environment. The residents of Dartmouth are exceptionally conservation-minded – 25% of the Town’s landscape is permanently protected and residents feel a real connection to the land. Located on the scenic south coast of Massachusetts, many parts of Dartmouth have a rural feel. The landscape is dotted with farm fields, forests, beaches, and salt marshes. Cultural and social opportunities abound in both Dartmouth and neighboring New Bedford.

The Service Member at Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust will be serving in a blended capacity, with 50% of time in a Land Stewardship role, and 50% of their time in a Community Engagement role.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC)/ Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC) 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. Members in this role also work on developing culturally inclusive systems, programming, partnerships, and events. By collaborating with community groups, CEC/LSCs demonstrate how the sustainable use and conservation of land can help address community needs related to education, public health, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, homelessness, poverty, hunger, and cultural decline. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, Members increase resources for community projects, demonstrate environmentally responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and connect a broader cross-section of people to the land and the benefits it provides.

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. **Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust has proposed the following potential projects for their Land Stewardship /Community Engagement Coordinator:**

- 1) **Develop a public engagement program** for our historic grist mill, Allen's Mill. We are seeking to increase public access and educational opportunities at the mill and raise awareness about the DNRT nature reserve where the mill and its water source are located. Capacity building program elements that a Member may focus on during their service year include: opening the mill for regular public visits (currently it is open one day a year), developing a video about the mill and the surrounding landscape for use on our website, developing an educational pamphlet, recruiting and training volunteer docents, and working with local school groups.
- 2) **Help to oversee the creation of a fruit orchard.** DNRT is planning to convert an overgrown field at our headquarters, known as Helfand Farm, into a fruit orchard for wildlife and a pollinator garden. Potential project components for Members to pursue include: engaging with volunteers to remove invasive plants, collaborating with a local bumblebee expert from UMass Dartmouth to identify appropriate native flower species for a pollinator garden, seeking donations from local nurseries for fruit-bearing shrubs

and trees, identifying and organizing volunteers to install the plants, developing an interpretive sign, and holding educational workshops and programs.

- 3) **Creating and leading a free public walking series** that highlights the natural resources found on DNRT's properties. While DNRT already hosts a number of walks each month, the demand is greater than we can accommodate. We are excited to capitalize on this popularity in order to grow our membership and support for the organization by highlighting the important land conservation work being carried out by DNRT. Potential audiences for Members to engage include families, school groups, scout troops, and residents of New Bedford, a city with a diverse population.

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, ArcMap)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training community members and volunteers
- Marketing experience or experience developing public information materials
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species
- Ability to educate and engage the general public through events, walks, and lectures

For questions about Dartmouth Natural Resource's Trust's service positions, contact Linda Vanderveer, 508-991-2289, linda@dnrt.org

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year's TerraCorps Members will serve from August 31st, 2020-July 30th, 2021. 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 service with the full TerraCorps team. 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 \$15,200 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$633.33 (pre-tax) per 24 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 \$6,195 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward 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

2020-2021 Service Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at terracorps.org.

A complete Member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, two references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at <https://terracorps.org/become-a-member>.

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 mid-April. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by late June, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled.

For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process. Email admin@terracorps.org or call 978-364-9770 x2.

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: 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 program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). TerraCorps is also supported in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance in MA.