



TERRACORPS

Formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps

2017 Land Stewardship Coordinator Position Opening **with Grow Food Northampton**

TerraCorps, formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals.

This year's TerraCorps program will support thirty-six full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of four positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Conservation Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), and Youth Education Coordinator (YEC). Members will serve in full-time, eleven-month positions (August 28th, 2017- July 27, 2018) 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).

Grow Food Northampton will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2017-18 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

Grow Food Northampton

221 Pine St., Suite 349

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GrowFoodNorthampton.com

Grow Food Northampton's mission is to promote food security by advancing sustainable agriculture in the Northampton, Massachusetts area. Founded in 2010 in response to a development threat to the largest buildable prime farmland parcels in Northampton, Grow Food Northampton moved from a small group of advocates to a vibrant, community-driven non-profit organization. We now own the largest community farm in Massachusetts, which is largely leased out to private farmers, helping to address land access and tenure challenges. We also manage a 270-plot community garden and a Giving Garden project where volunteers grow many thousands of pounds of vegetables for donation to soup kitchens and food pantries. We operate educational programs on the farm and in classrooms, fund and manage several food access programs that ensure that everyone in our community can afford to eat local produce, and manage a vibrant local farmers' market. All of our programs celebrate local food as a way to build a stronger, more sustainable, and more inclusive community.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) build the long-term capacity of their host 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.

LSCs may assist their host site by: surveying and monitoring conservation land, building and maintaining recreational trails, monitoring and maintaining urban farmland, restoring wildlife habitat, mitigating erosion, and improving public access to open spaces. 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 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. Grow Food Northampton has proposed the following potential project for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:

- 1) Plan and manage, with some supervision and hundreds of hours of volunteer and intern support, a ½-acre organic Giving Garden, growing produce for donation to soup kitchens and food pantries. Duties include cover crop and vegetable crop management and rotations to support soil and plant health and sustainable yields, equipment maintenance, training and supervision of volunteers and interns, coordination with Youth Education Coordinator on bed preparation and other tasks to integrate youth field trip activities, and improvement of a farm plan for the Giving Garden for future years. This project meets a need that low-income populations have for fresh, healthy, and local food, as well as a need for our organization to ensure that its protected farmland serves the entire community. Goals include donating 10,000 pounds of high quality produce, engaging 50 or more volunteers, and building relationships with 5 or more partner meal sites and food pantries.
- 2) Help to plan for and coordinate farm leases, balancing needs of private farmers with Grow Food Northampton's desire to encourage sustainable land management and a vibrant local agricultural economy.
- 3) Help to plan for and directly manage protected farmland that is ancillary to or not currently in agricultural use, potentially including invasive species and field edge management, trail building, and perennial agricultural systems in riparian buffers.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

Essential Qualifications:

- Knowledge and direct experience of small-scale vegetable-centered agriculture
- Experience with (or demonstrated ability to learn) operation and maintenance of two-wheeled tractor and other small machinery
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species
- Comfortable serving independently in both an office and field setting
- Physical and mental ability to serve independently in both an office and field setting under sometimes demanding conditions, including lifting 50 pounds regularly and

- performing repetitive field tasks
- Familiarity with and ability to quickly learn a variety of computer systems

Desired Qualifications:

- Degree in sustainable agriculture, agronomy, soil science, or related field.
- Experience training and managing volunteers
- Proven ability to work well with young people ages 5 to 18
- Familiarity with seed starting and seedling care, vegetable disease management, crop rotation principles and practices, harvest criteria and techniques, post-harvest handling, and related topics
- Familiarity with local farmers and the farming community, challenges faced by beginning farmers
- Familiarity with agricultural lease terms and conditions
- Familiarity with whole farm planning, regenerative agriculture, productive conservation, and/or related approaches to sustainable farm management

For questions about Grow Food Northampton’s service positions, contact Clem Clay at clem@growfoodnorthampton.com.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year’s TerraCorps program will run from August 28, 2017 through July 27, 2018. All members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire eleven-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 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

As a program of AmeriCorps, TerraCorps applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

- 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

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 \$12,530 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$522.08 per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through healthcare.gov. 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 \$5,815 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

2017-2018 Host Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at terracorps.org. A complete member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at terracorps.org.

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our host sites. Do not send applications directly to a host site.

We strongly encourage application submissions before interviews begin in mid-April. Position offers and acceptances will begin shortly thereafter. The program aims to fill all positions by early June, but host sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled.

For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process, at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Email admin@masslift.org or call 978-248-2043.

Additional Information About this Program

TerraCorps We seek 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 men and women 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). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, mass-service.org) is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.