



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 80 full-time AmeriCorps Members across Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut 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 30th, 2021-July 29, 2022) 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).

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2021-2022 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

Land Stewardship Coordinator with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

1461 Old Keene Road
Athol, MA 01331
mountgrace.org

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (Mount Grace) conserves significant farms, woodlands, and wild areas in North Central and Western Massachusetts for the benefit of the environment, the economy, and future generations. Mount Grace has helped to protect over 35,000 acres of land in our twenty-three town region comprised of small rural communities and larger urban centers. We are nationally recognized for projects that conserve entire landscapes and watersheds. We create innovative solutions that keep farmland undeveloped and affordable for farmers. We partner with community groups and schools to ensure that everyone has access to the outdoors and meaningful experiences in nature.

COVID-19 Information– Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust strongly recommends that staff and TerraCorps Service Members be fully vaccinated before the start of the TerraCorps service year. The reason we are strongly recommending vaccination is because members will spend a

significant amount of time serving in-person with volunteers, staff, or community members, therefore the expectation is that all staff and AmeriCorps members are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) 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. 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 generally 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. **Mount Grace has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:**

- 1) Create a citizen-science volunteer team to conduct natural resource inventories of birds, amphibians, and other species on conservation areas to record changes resulting from wildlife habitat management projects as well as climate change. Support the development of Ecological Stewardship Plans on Mount Grace-owned properties.
- 2) Partner with volunteers and community groups, including local scouts, to enhance the quality and type of public access on Mount Grace-owned properties. Activities may include building trails, creating a canoe launch, maintaining an accessible trail, and organizing volunteer stewards to care for these recreational amenities.
- 3) Assist with vital stewardship activities, including maintaining pollinator gardens at Mount Grace's headquarters, engaging with peer land trusts on land management projects, conducting annual monitoring visits on protected properties, supporting the Volunteer Steward Program, developing relationships with private landowners, updating reports, and being an effective ambassador for Mount Grace's stewardship program in the community.

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 including ArcGIS, ArcPro, Landscape Conservation Software, Zoom, and Microsoft Office
- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Able to be active outside in a range of weather conditions, and navigate uneven terrain
- Able to walk 3-4 miles a day over uneven terrain in a range of weather conditions and navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species

For questions about Mount Grace's service positions, contact Sarah Wells at wells@mountgrace.org.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year's TerraCorps members will serve from August 30th, 2021-July 29, 2022. 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 \$15,600 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$624 (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 \$6,345 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

2021-2022 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/apply/>.

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 Lianna Lee, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process. Email MA@terracorps.org or call 978-364-9770.

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 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.