



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 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 Community Engagement/Youth Education Coordinator for the 2021-21 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

Community Engagement / Youth Education 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) is a regional land trust that is deeply rooted in collaboration. Since 1986, we have worked with dozens of partners and hundreds of landowners to protect 35,000 acres of woods, streams, farms, and trails in our picturesque rural region. Nestled between Gardner and Greenfield and anchored by the Quabbin Reservoir and its thousands of acres of pristine trails, we are working throughout 23 towns to foster a deep conservation ethic. We are nationally recognized for our innovative and collaborative projects, and Mount Grace was the home and founder of the TerraCorps program. Three of our eleven staff are AmeriCorps alumni, two of whom served with TerraCorps specifically. This year, we are hosting four TerraCorps members who will be fully integrated into our conservation, stewardship, and engagement teams. We are committed to developing the next generation of conservation leaders, and we are continually inspired by the creativity and vision of the TerraCorps members who choose to join us each year.

Our region is beautiful and precious—and has benefited from a tremendous legacy of land conservation—but we have so many more people to reach and land to protect. We are ready for the 2021-2022 team to help us create the next chapter of Mount Grace’s story.

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.

A service member at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will be serving in a blended capacity, with 50% of time in a Community Engagement role, and 50% of time spent in a Youth Education role.

Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC)/ Youth Education Coordinators (YEC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by developing culturally inclusive systems, programming, partnerships, and events. By collaborating with community groups, CEC/YECs 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. In this role, Members may also engage community members and 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 people to the natural world, improve science literacy, and encourage healthy lifestyles. By connecting a broader cross-section of people to our natural world, CEC/YECs build bridges that reinforce the connection between land and a sustainable social, economic, and environmental future for all people.

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 Land Conservation Trust has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Community Engagement Coordinator:

- 1) Build on existing relationships with partner schools to provide programming to grades K-6
 - a. Organize and create events on conservation lands to increase awareness and appreciation of nature and the outdoors for underserved students at our partner schools
- 2) Collaborate with Tribal Nation representatives to provide curriculum and guided field trips on the land for local elementary students
- 3) Collaborate with partner organizations to create stories and exhibits using the collection at the Millers River Environmental Center to connect species health with local land protection
- 4) Coordinate a diversity of events at conservation areas to broaden participation of people and families in the North Quabbin region traditionally underrepresented in programs. Target audience would include but is not limited to new residents to the

region, folks young and old left behind with the digital transformation of the past year, and those who face barriers of language or social-economic conditions in experiencing the natural world.

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 Microsoft Office Suite, Zoom and video editing
- Training and experience delivering curriculum to K-6 youth, teaching indoors and outdoors
- Experience in event planning, and training and educating community members and volunteers of all ages
- Understanding of natural systems (gardening, farming, ecology, healthy ecosystems) and integrating into experiential learning opportunities
- Excellent time management skills and ability to juggle multiple projects at once

For questions about Mount Grace's CEC/YEC position, contact Marielena Lima at lima@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.