



## 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).

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator role for the 2020-21 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at [terrakorps.org](http://terrakorps.org).

### **2020 Land Stewardship Coordinator with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust**

#### **Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust**

1461 Old Keene Road  
Athol, MA 01331  
[mountgrace.org](http://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 more than 34,000 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. Four of our eleven staff are AmeriCorps alumni, three 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 so much more land to protect. We are ready for the the 2020-2021 team to help us create the next chapter of Mount Grace's story.

**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 40% of their time in the office and 60% 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 projects 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
- 2) Create a pollinator garden at the Mount Grace headquarters and increase community awareness of the importance of pollinators
- 3) Construct and implement a wheelchair-accessible nature trail project
- 4) Collaborate with the TerraCorps YEC to lead local scout groups to earn badges
- 5) Create an ecological stewardship plan for Mount Grace-owned properties. The plan will propose a timeline to implement best management strategies to care for our properties and protect our natural resources through habitat management, invasive plant removal, nature resource inventory, and public access opportunities
- 6) Visit and monitor Mount Grace conservation lands to ensure the land is continually protected and managed. This may include observing for any encroachment, installing boundary markers, constructing and maintaining trails, creating informational signage, removing invasive plants, and providing resources to landowners to manage their land
- 7) Enhance and expand the Volunteer Stewardship Program by recruiting and training volunteers to monitor conservation lands and hiking trails
- 8) Organize events on conservation lands to increase awareness and appreciation of nature and the outdoors

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 in an office and field setting
- Comfort navigating computer software programs including ArcGIS, 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 of all ages
- Able to walk 3-4 miles a day over uneven terrain in a range of weather conditions and navigate in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species
- Ability to write detailed technical reports

*For questions about Mount Grace's Stewardship Manager positions, contact KimLynn Nguyen: [nguyen@mountgrace.org](mailto:nguyen@mountgrace.org)*

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

This year's TerraCorps members will serve from August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020-July 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](https://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.

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### **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](http://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](http://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.