

ECO AmeriCorps

2024-2025



Field Research Specialist

Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 149 Natures Way Queechee, VT 05059

VINS Mission: Motivating individuals and communities to care for the environment through education, research, and avian wildlife rehabilitation.

Position Supervisor: Jim Armbruster, Lead Biologist

Leads all projects of the VINS' Center for Field Research. Conduct field work both on campus and through Vermont and New Hampshire. Coordinate all aspects of our raptor banding and animal tagging efforts including permitting, and reporting. Facilitate collaborations with outside organizations, and students. Supervise staff, AmeriCorps members, interns, high school, college and grad students, and volunteers.

The Role:

The Field Research Specialist will be involved in all aspects of the VINS' mission with a focus on our research and community science efforts. The specialist will have the opportunity to assist on all projects conducted by the Center for Field Research including Monarch Butterfly sampling and tagging, Hawk Watch, and several raptor banding projects. The Field Research Specialist will lead projects including our Broad-winged Hawk monitoring efforts in Vermont as part of a long term collaboration with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. They will also lead community science projects including water quality sampling, invasive species monitoring and removal, amphibian monitoring, and nest watch. The specialist will have the opportunity to host workshops focusing on these projects. They will also have the opportunity to shadow other departments within our organization.

We hope to increase our community science offerings to better engage with our public and bring science to a broader community. We also have long term projects that require continued monitoring that we do not

currently have staff we can dedicate to.

All community science projects have designated data entry platforms that ensure member impacts are recorded and contribute to larger conservation initiatives. Most of the data is available for public use and increases the reach of the impact.

Several species that we monitor are listed as declining in Vermont and across their entire range. Our projects are critical to better understand these declines, and in some cases make a positive impact to slow their loss. An AmeriCorps member will have the opportunity to interact directly with these species and make a real difference for the wildlife of our state.

Essential Functions: Engage in all aspects of the VINS mission with a focus on our research and community science efforts.

- Conduct surveys for nesting Broad-winged Hawks throughout Vermont.
- Conduct water quality sampling and sample transport throughout the Ottauquechee watershed.
- Lead and expand community science projects including nest watch, crayfish monitoring, and amphibian monitoring.
- Coordinate VINS community science volunteers.
- Inventory and monitor invasive species on VINS properties.

Secondary Functions:

- Conduct surveys for nesting Broad-winged Hawks throughout Vermont.
- Conduct water quality sampling and sample transport throughout the Ottauquechee watershed.
- Lead and expand community science projects including nest watch, crayfish monitoring, and amphibian monitoring.
- Coordinate VINS community science volunteers.
- Inventory and monitor invasive species on VINS properties.

Desired Qualifications:

- Capable of serving in remote areas of Vermont individually or as part of a small team.
- Experience with field work and/or degree, or working toward a degree, in natural resources, wildlife biology, or environmental sciences.
- General knowledge of water quality sampling procedures, and Vermont flora and fauna (or willingness and initiative to learn).
- Ability to identify Vermont bird species by sight and sound.

What initiatives has your organization undertaken to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ)?

Our organization is in the early stages of improving our DEIJ initiatives. We recently drafted a DEIJ policy and are working on its implementation. We conduct trainings throughout the year that focus on DEIJ topics.

As we are early on in our DEIJ journey we need all staff to be actively involved in the process. We are constantly trying to improve our offerings which requires input from multiple people.

How is climate resiliency part of the work your organization does?

Most of our educational programs include discussion on climate change, and steps that people can take in their lives to mitigate their impact. We also have organized a green team to focus on aspects of VINS that can be changed to reduce our overall impact.

Networking Opportunities

We maintain close ties with organizations throughout the state and the country. Our projects frequently involve collaborations with these organizations that a member would directly be involved in. Several projects also include collaboration with members of different AmeriCorps programs.

Misc.

The Upper Valley is a great community for a member to be a part of. There are many great local attractions in close proximity to our nature center. VINS is part of the Vermont Attractions association and maintains working relations with several including relationships with conservation and science organizations in the area. Since VINS is an integral part of the community we can easily ensure that a member has access to the resources and spaces they need.

Each year we bring on several seasonal staff members, interns and AmeriCorps that also tend to be from outside of Vermont. There are many opportunities to engage with others outside of campus who may be in a similar situation as the member.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be a US citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S.;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation (there is no upper age limit);
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps. If a member has a documented medical reason/professional opinion why they cannot finish high school, they might be eligible; call in this case;
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Must submit to Agency of Human Services checks, i.e. Adult Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention;
- Be committed to the ECO AmeriCorps program, and its ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way

To Apply: [My AmeriCorps - Home Page](#)

Position begins November 2024 and ends August 15, 2025

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.



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