

ECO AmeriCorps

2024-2025



Willowell Program & Outreach Coordinator

The Willowell Foundation, 36 Stoney Meadow Lane, Monkton, VT 05443

To cultivate healthy communities by connecting people to the arts, education, the environment, and each other.

Position Supervisor: Tasha Ball, Administrative Director

The Role

The Willowell Program and Outreach Coordinator AmeriCorps Member will spend their days serving with a middle school, elementary school, high school and/or afterschool program. They will also serve through engaging volunteers in the community garden, or building program capacity within Willowell Foundation.

All of our programs aim to increase youth awareness of environmental stewardship measures through place-based outdoor education. The member directly serves youth by guiding each student's learning and projects, and through coordinating outdoor activities, such as wildlife tracking and hikes or art and creative projects. Further the member will facilitate civic engagement discussions, organize community service projects which benefit the environment, distilling down to our local ecosystems.

The member also mentors individual students around healthy choices and nutrition— expanding access to education. Through the lens of equity and inclusion, the member will empower students from diverse backgrounds through active participation in outdoor experiential learning. As an extension of this, the member recruits youth from low-income families in Addison County; develops curricula; creates a public outreach strategy and distributes promotional materials; recruits and trains community volunteers; and researches and writes non-federal grants for member-led programs.

The Willowell Foundation is at a juncture of growth, with varying and burgeoning new programs which are expanding and defining themselves in real time. Historically, AmeriCorps service members have keenly identified areas of opportunity within our programs, and with the help of their vision, have grown our programs into unique and meaningful offerings for the larger community. We expect that through the service of the next AmeriCorps member(s), Willowell will be able to further define the ways in which our programs will expand. In practical terms, the member may discover a grant that speaks directly to one of our mission goals; they may write the grant and through doing so, set a course or focus to action which emphasizes and builds upon previous programmatic goals. Further, the member may feel inspired to begin a community-driven project which might build awareness around Willowell's mission and increase the number of community supporters.

Essential Functions

- Serve with youth of all ages and backgrounds through varying conditions
- Plan and implement Nutrition
- Help to develop education (e.g., curricula about nutrition, cooking classes, projects to explore healthy eating, further develop the edible food forest, support food systems & hunger initiatives)
- Youth mentoring
- Youth tutoring -In-School or Out-of-School and with general support
- Help with organizational fundraising efforts
- Recruit and manage volunteers

Secondary Functions

- Capacity building
- Land based projects

Desired Qualifications

- Understanding of local ecology or the ability and desire to learn
- Strong writing skills
- Strong organization skills
- A collaborative team player

Goals for the position

Willowell programs explore ways to use the local environment to enrich student understanding and to help teachers make connections between local places and their Pre-K-12 educational experience, as well as to explore sustainability and environmental issues facing youth growing up in the 21st century. Since 2000, the Willowell Foundation has grown from an 18-student alternative high school program in an unused building at one local high school to a bioregional education center located on 230-acres of land and involving seven schools in three districts.

The goal for our ECO AmeriCorps member will be to experience and immerse themselves within the programs they are serving; to learn more about their capacity for positive impact within their own communities (however far reaching); to learn how to better collaborate with others and brainstorm ideas together; to engage with and develop projects they might not otherwise have had the opportunity to; to gain confidence in their own abilities as potential leaders and to have fun!

DEIJ

Over the last year we have created pointed action steps to bring conversations around DEIJ to the forefront of our organization. Last year, we held an intensive workshop for all our staff members which was facilitated by VT Works for Women. This workshop not only addressed busting gender bias, but gave critical attention to issues around DEIJ in our community, discussing what justice actually looks like in situations where opportunity has traditionally been minimal for certain underserved groups in our culture at large. This all day workshop prompted meaningful discussion and created many learning moments. We would like to continue this workshop model and active discussion around DEIJ going forward. We are committed to adopting a mindset which is open to growth and shifting perspectives as we learn how best to be advocates for under-represented voices in our county and beyond.

Additionally, our newly state-approved middle school, Pond Brook Project, has made it its mission to creating equitable and just access to the programming, which has meant that no child has ever been turned away due to lack of funds; we rely heavily on a deep scholarship model across all of our programs to ensure children from diverse backgrounds can take part.

Climate Resiliency

While our nonprofit is deeply committed to the health of the environment through our stewardship, practices and care of the land, we are not actively involved in any climate resiliency projects at this time.

Networking

Yes! We love to offer these sorts of opportunities for AmeriCorps members. We advocate for participation in professional development opportunities, include them in board meetings and community events, and offer them chances to network with other non-profits in the area.

Misc.

Gear they may need for service are: boots, warm winter clothes and rain gear. A reliable vehicle is expected. Members will be mostly outdoors through varying weather conditions; sometimes they will be indoors for meetings or other project development.

We pride ourselves in making our members feel at home. We have been hosting members for 23 years and many of them relocate from around the country to serve with us. Many members end up serving for two years with us, and many stay on as staff and relocate to Vermont permanently. Our board of directors and staff make them feel welcome by inviting them to gatherings and events, helping them find housing, and mentoring them when they arrive.

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 September 17th, 2024 and ends August 15th, 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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