



**2021-2022 Service Year**

Environmental Careers and Opportunities (ECO) AmeriCorps is an AmeriCorps program within the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). The emphasis of the program is on building capacity in nonprofit organizations and municipalities throughout rural Vermont communities. Program focus areas include the following:

- engagement, outreach, and education
- improvement of water quality
- protection and restoration of public lands

ECO AmeriCorps is funded in part by an AmeriCorps state grant provided through SerVermont from the Corporation for National & Community Service.

All ECO AmeriCorps members have some college education (preference given to college graduates with a science background) and will receive technical training and mentorship from VTDEC throughout their term of service. VTDEC handles the administrative components of the program, including providing living stipends, health insurance, and monthly trainings to members.

**Full-Time Member Benefits\*** *Living Stipend: \$17,300 Education Award: \$6,345*

*Other Benefits:* Training, networking opportunities, health care, childcare assistance, program support, mileage reimbursement for ECO AmeriCorps–related travel.

Applicant Information		
Name of Organization or Municipality: Friends of Northern Lake Champlain		
Primary Supervisor Name: Patrick Daunais	Primary Supervisor Title: Projects Coordinator	
Mailing Address: PO Box 1145		
City: Saint Albans	State: VT	Zip: 05478
Phone: 802.238.6973	Fax:	
Email: pdaunais@friendsofnorthernlakechamplain.org	Website: <a href="https://www.friendsofnorthernlakechamplain.org">https://www.friendsofnorthernlakechamplain.org</a>	
Sponsoring Organization's Mission:		
To clean and protect the waters of Northern Lake Champlain, we work collaboratively with citizens and government to reduce polluted land-use runoff into Lake Champlain. For more than 19 years we have been dedicated to improving the water quality of Lake Champlain by educating and implementing projects in the Northern arm of Lake Champlain.		

Please provide a brief description of your role at your site:
I have been the Projects Coordinator at FNLC since April 2018. My responsibilities include oversight and management of all grant funded projects, development of new projects, grant writing, and outreach coordination.
What is the title of the position you are requesting? <b>Assistant Project Coordinator</b>

Describe your proposed service position:

With limited paid staff, our organization is seeking the service of an ECO AmeriCorps member to help build capacity to increase services to the region. This service project will assist the ProjectsCoordinator in providing community education, landowner outreach, project development, implementation oversight, and grant writing assistance. This position will also be responsible for collecting water quality samples in the Rock River watershed.

Essential Functions. Functions that the applicant must be able to perform. These may be listed in bullet form:

In this position the applicant must be able to perform the following:

Serve independently to meet deadlines and project milestones.

Have or obtain a valid drivers license and reliable automobile to travel to water quality testing sites. Walk up to 1/2 mile through vegetated areas (often in agricultural scenarios) to obtain water samples.

Willingness to "get hands dirty" to help implement small scale green stormwater infrastructure.

Follow written protocols.

Be a self-motivated critical thinker.

Willing to serve with school aged children.

Marginal Functions. These are secondary to Essential Functions, may be negotiable, and can be completed as time allows. These may be listed in bullet form:

Marginal functions include:

Basic laboratory skills

GIS knowledge and ability

Grant writing

Please list any clothing/equipment the member will need that you cannot provide (e.g., hiking boots, waders, rain gear, etc.). As the host site, you are responsible for providing all tools and technical equipment needed for the position (e.g., computer, phone, GPS, etc.).

Hiking boots and/or waterproof footwear

Rain gear

Sun/Insect protective headwear

Vehicle (FNLC will reimburse mileage at federal rate)

Desired qualifications:

FNLC is seeking an ECO AmeriCorps member with a bachelor's degree, or background in biology, natural resources, environmental studies, or environmental engineering. The ideal candidate will have the ability to use word processing and spreadsheet software to compile and analyze data, and must be a self-starter with the ability to serve independently.

This position will be serving on one of our educational programs that will be teaching environmental stewardship of the Lake Champlain Basin to 5th and 6th grade students in 4 local schools. There will be 4 classroom sessions and 2 fieldtrips with up to 160 students (across 4 schools).

Our group also presents information and water quality data at regional agricultural meetings and outreach events (additional ~100 people).

FNLC partners with organizations to do annual river streambank clean ups, and we anticipate working ~1 mile of area streams.

Provide additional information (data, statistics, reports, etc.) that demonstrates the compelling need for the proposed position(s).

Prior to this year, FNLC has hosted an ECO AmeriCorps member for 6 consecutive years and we would like to continue post-COVID.

Describe how the supervisor has adequate time and leadership experience to manage an ECO member?  
Please explain how:

The Projects Coordinator has over 10 years of experience managing the operations of various clinical testing laboratories, where they supervised teams as large as 20 and as small as 2. The supervisory roles required mentoring new employees and attending numerous managerial trainings.

In this role, the ECO AmeriCorps member will be serving in conjunction with the Projects Coordinator on a day-to-day basis. We will have weekly staff meetings to update the Board Chair of ongoing and upcoming activities, and we will keep in communication via email, phone, and text during unsupervised duties.

Describe networking opportunities that will be available to the member during service?

Through the duration of this service project the ECO AmeriCorps Member will have exposure to, and interaction with partner water quality organizations, environmental consulting organizations, municipalities, and state agencies. This position will also interact with the public at outreach events hosted by our organization.

Does your organization currently host or plan to host a member from a different AmeriCorps program? If yes, explain the duties of the other AmeriCorps position(s).

No

In what ways does your organization support diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice?

FNLC works with the public to advocate for environmental improvements that benefits marginalized populations. We support an "all in" approach to solving water quality issues and that carries through to our organizational makeup and commitment to inclusion, diversity, and equity. Whenever possible we participate in workshops, such as implicit bias training, to remain mindful and educate ourselves for continuous improvement.

The 2021–2022 program will begin early-to-mid September 2021 and end in August 2022.

We look forward to seeing your application!

