



Service Year 2021–2022

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.

VTDEC administers the member's living stipend, health care benefits, childcare benefits, time sheets, activity reports, and other AmeriCorps and employee-related benefits and documentation.

Applicant Information		
Name of Organization or Municipality: Lake Champlain Committee		
Primary Supervisor Name: Lori Fisher	Primary Supervisor Title: Executive Director	
Mailing Address: 208 Flynn Avenue, Building 3, Studio 3F		
City: Burlington	State: VT	Zip: 05401
Phone: 802 658-1421	Fax:	
Email: lorif@lakechamplaincommittee.org	Website: www.lakechamplaincommittee.org	
Sponsoring Organization's Mission:		
The Lake Champlain Committee is dedicated to protecting Lake Champlain's environmental integrity and recreational resources for this and future generations through science-based advocacy, education and collaborative action.		

Please provide a brief description of your role at your site:
As Executive Director I am the chief administrative agent of the Lake Champlain Committee, Inc., a nonprofit watershed-based environmental organization dedicated to protecting Lake Champlain's environmental integrity and recreational resources for this and future generations through science-based advocacy, education and collaborative action. I oversee the work of LCC staff, including business operations, development, program and policy work, publications, education and public relations. I'm responsible for the effective management of financial resources, staff and volunteers to ensure the successful implementation of policies and programs which support LCC's mission as guided by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

What is the title of the position you are requesting?

Education & Outreach Coordinator

Describe your proposed service position:

The ECO AmeriCorps Education and Outreach Coordinator (hereafter the ECO AC Member or Member) will help educate and engage community members and visitors in the Lake Champlain watershed in environmental stewardship to protect and improve water quality. The member will assist with and expand as applicable, LCC's current education and outreach programs to raise awareness of lake issues and involve people in taking action to reduce their water impacts. They will also foster experiential learning through hands-on program activities such as stormwater educational efforts focused on several area schools, water quality and aquatic invasive species monitoring and stewardship of the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail.

General Education – Through this position the ECO AC Member will grow and serve LCC's education and outreach program collaborating with LCC staff to schedule and develop existing and new programs. They will build on and further cultivate relationships with community members, schools, businesses, municipalities and partner organizations and agencies relevant to LCC's education and outreach goals. This will involve assisting with "April Stools" and "Scoop the Poop" days, water conservation efforts such as "Fix-a-Leak Week", World Water Day, Earth Day, shoreline clean-ups, information sessions, volunteer days, and community science and environmental stewardship initiatives.

To support the education and outreach work they may create, update or assist with educational displays, fact sheets, informational materials, press releases and calendar of event write-ups, newsletter articles, and content for print, web, and social media for education and outreach programs. Additionally, they will provide general support for education, outreach and stewardship programs including membership assistance, direct mailing and emailing, media and social media promotions, and database updates as relevant.

School Stormwater Programs – The Member will assist with developing stormwater education and stormwater reduction programs in area schools. This will include outreach, on-the-ground implementation, and engaging the community in ongoing maintenance.

Cyanobacteria & Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring – The Member will assist with implementation of our lake-wide cyanobacteria and aquatic invasive species monitoring programs. This will include volunteer recruitment and training, site condition assessments, record-keeping, photo documentation, report vetting, database maintenance, and weekly and seasonal outreach.

Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail – The Member will help with the annual development of the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail guidebook including securing site description agreements, stewardship guidance, and developing day-trip write-ups for Trail sections. Additional Trail service may involve performing signage checks and small-scale maintenance tasks for Vermont sites in the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail on an as-needed basis.

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

- Grow and service LCC's education and outreach program working with LCC staff to implement existing programs and schedule and develop new programs as appropriate.
- Assist in the implementation of our stormwater assessment and stormwater reduction implementation and outreach programs at schools in the Lake Champlain watershed.
- Help cultivate relationships with local schools, businesses, municipalities, and partner organizations and agencies relevant to LCC's education and stewardship goals. Track communications to build a database of contacts for future outreach.
- Assist in planning and implementing LCC educational events and programs such as water conservation, "April Stools" and "Scoop the Poop" days, World Water Day, Earth Day programs, shoreline clean-ups, boater education efforts, information sessions, volunteer days, and citizen science and environmental stewardship initiatives.
- Assist with getting LCC's educational materials such as our award-winning natural history book, Enewsletter, lake issues

column, and "Lesson from the Floods" publication to a wider audience.

- . Assist efforts to recruit, coordinate, manage, and support volunteers for education and stewardship projects and build LCC outreach capacity.
- . Assist with annual development of Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail guidebook including securing site description agreements, stewardship guidance, and developing day-trip write-ups for Trail sections.
- . Perform signage checks and small-scale maintenance tasks for Vermont sites in the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail as needed. Maintain stewardship and volunteer logs that track program numbers, outcomes, and stories. Working with the Executive Director develop additional ways to raise awareness of the Lake Champlain Paddler's Trail and foster stewardship.
- . Assist LCC staff with implementing cyanobacteria monitoring and invasive species mapping and control programs. Maintain records logging volunteer involvement, photo document training and outreach sessions, provide support to volunteers, update cyanobacteria tracking database, and help compile and coordinate weekly reporting and outreach related to monitoring program.
- . Respond to and track requests and follow-up communications for education and information resources.
- . Create educational displays, fact sheets, informational materials, and calendar of event write-ups, newsletter articles, and content for print, web, and social media for education and outreach programs as needed.
- . Help build education, outreach and stewardship programs through direct mailing and emailing, media and social media promotions around campaigns and direct assistance and follow up to inquiries. Includes maintaining a database of records of outreach communications and promotions to build network of participants.
- . Promote water protection and LCC programs various public outreach events, including the April Earth Month events; April Stools' Day/Scoop the Poop events; spring boating shows; summer festivals and water-related events and the LCC annual meeting as prioritized by LCC.
- . Update a calendar of events of LCC Education and Outreach programs with Program descriptions, task lists and schedules for outreach and deliverables.

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:

- Attend LCC staff meetings and participate in organization functions and events as required.
- Collaborate with staff, volunteers and partners to both bring added content to public programs and facilitate cross-promotion of programs.
- Help manage and build LCC's database/contact list of community partners and volunteers.
- Support key water protection, education and outreach, and stewardship projects relevant to Education & Outreach Coordinator role through active participation in meetings and implementing and providing support for follow-up tasks as needed.

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.).

We will provide the ECO AmeriCorps member with access to a laptop, office phone, office space along with gloves and field equipment as required for their service.

They should have sunglasses, day pack, rain gear, water shoes or rain boots, and outdoor gear for field assessments and outdoor projects. Waders and a wet suit are helpful if they have them but not a necessity.

If the ECO AmeriCorps member has a car that they plan to use while serving, they should be aware that winter tires are necessary for safe driving on roadways during the winter regardless of how short the trip.

Desired qualifications:

- . 11-month, full-time commitment.
- . Service ethic: desire to do meaningful service to educate and engage people in stewardship;
- . Conscientious, reliable, and punctual;
- . Efficient approach to tasks and enthusiasm for the service;
- . Ability to follow through and execute;
- . Thoroughness, ability to organize work, and attentiveness to detail, accuracy and design;
- . Pleasant, professional manner and friendly approach to tasks and collaborating with others;
- . Personable, outgoing, and enjoy serving with diverse groups of people;
- . Strong written and oral communication skills and public speaking experience;
- . High motivation and energy level;
- . Ability to participate as part of a team and independently and to thrive in a busy environment;
- . Ability to serve in a small headquarters environment or serve remotely as situations require;
- . Ability to serve with deadlines and within budgets and under time pressure with humor and attention to detail;
- . Educational program development and implementation experience;
- . Stormwater education and assessment experience;
- . Proficiency with Microsoft Word and Excel;
- . Experience with databases, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign preferred and social media applications preferred;
- . Eagerness to learn and positive attitude;
- . Love of water and outdoors and familiarity with Leave No Trace outdoor ethics;
- . General knowledge of Lake Champlain watershed and water quality issues (or willingness and initiative to learn);
- . Kayaking experience helpful;
- . Degree or background in environmental sciences;

Describe how the position will contribute to the program's National Performance Measures:

1. Number of individuals educated on environmental stewardship; number of individuals with an intention to change behavior
2. Number of miles of trails/streams/rivers improved
3. Number of acres of publicly owned or managed land improved

1. Number of individuals educated on environmental stewardship; number of individuals with an intention to change behavior
 LCC's ECO AmeriCorps Education & Outreach Coordinator will be involved in the training of 200 LCC cyanobacteria monitors, along with 20 - 30 Aquatic Invasive Species Patrollers, and 10 Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail Site Stewards. Additionally, they will support and help develop and implement outreach through our website and social media and to the 3,000 recipients of LCC's Enewsletter. Other more general programmatic outreach is directed at thousands of community members in the Lake Champlain watershed through the distribution of mailings, emailings, printed materials and water protection campaigns. While all of these efforts will encourage water protection and stewardship, not all the outreach will track actions so we won't have performance metrics for all the practices we endeavor to foster. However, we can quantify some change in behavior by the number of people who take our Lake Protection Pledge of stewardship actions.

2. Number of miles of trails/streams/rivers improved
 LCC's educational efforts focus on water protection and we have active field-programs that enlist community members in monitoring sensitive shoreland areas for aquatic invasive species, cyanobacteria, and other pollutants. We also run events to clean up shoreland parks and trails and our overall programmatic work is focused on protecting and improving water quality and ecological health. We anticipate that these activities will cover about 20 miles of lake shoreline and trails.

3. Number of acres of publicly owned or managed land improved
 LCC's ECO AmeriCorps will be involved in oversight of the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail which includes over 35 sites on public land with access to more than 600 campsites. The Trail provides an important opportunity and improvement for low-impact, human-powered recreational use of the lake. While the sites cover thousands of acres on public land we've provided a very conservative estimate of five acres for land improved.

Provide approximate impact numbers (e.g., miles of rivers treated) in each focus area. Refer to the 2021–2022 Performance Goals document for an explanation on each focus area.

Focus Area	Projected Impact Numbers	
Water Quality Improvement	Miles of river/stream/trail treated and/or improved	20
Protection and Restoration of Public Land	Acres of parks or public land treated and/or improved	5
Engagement, Outreach, and Education	Number of individuals receiving environmental stewardship education or training	300

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

One of the primary goals of the Lake Champlain Restoration and Protection Plan "Opportunities for Action" is to "promote better understanding and appreciation of the Lake Champlain Basin resources and threats as well as personal responsibility that leads to behavioral changes and actions to reduce pollution. The report notes that "The future of the Lake Champlain Basin rests in the hands of its citizens and leaders. Public information and outreach efforts must continue and expand to actively involve people in protecting and appreciating the resources of the entire Basin. Ultimately, a public that understands the Basin's water quality and resource management problems as well as possible solutions can make informed choices about protection and restoration. Informing the public about how to change personal and collective behaviors and providing opportunities to change those behaviors are critical steps in reducing our impact on Lake Champlain."

LCC's Education and Outreach Coordinator position will help work towards this goal by enabling LCC to expand the reach of our educational efforts to a broader audience. We have several well-established programs and extensive informational materials that need the boost of additional service hours to engage more community members. An ECO AmeriCorps Member will build on efforts by our previous service members to help us enhance programs, recruit and involve volunteers, and strengthen community relations. LCC continues to view education and outreach as a high organizational priority. An ECO AmeriCorps Member will leverage existing programs and our financial resources effectively to expand our outreach.

The ECO AmeriCorps Member will be exposed to many aspects of environmental nonprofit programming including education and outreach, building partnerships, and project-specific fundraising, and will have both headquarter and field opportunities which will provide them with a depth of experience and build their capacity for ongoing contributions in the natural resources field.

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

Yes. The supervisor is a seasoned manager with more than 30 years of supervisory experience. She has previously overseen five ECO AmeriCorps members. The oversight responsibilities are part of her annual responsibilities. She will meet with the ECO AmeriCorps member on a regular basis to support and guide their service goals.

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

"Collaborative action" is a core part of LCC's mission. Our programs are conducted with a broad range of partners from individual community members to state and municipal staff. We partner with a diverse group of agencies, businesses, community members, schools and universities throughout the Lake Champlain watershed. The ECO AmeriCorps Education & Outreach Coordinator will have opportunities to connect with a wide array of partners through their service. Additionally, as the service schedule allows, we encourage ECO AmeriCorps members to attend meetings, trainings, workshops and partner events that enhance their service and allow for networking.

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?

The Lake Champlain Committee (LCC) has been working to build the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and environmental justice into all our operations as well as model those values as we advance our mission for a clean, accessible lake. In 2020 the LCC Board made a commitment to expand our training to increase organizational effectiveness in applying DEI and environmental justice principles to our daily operations. Staff and Team members and Executive Committee members have undertaken DEI and anti-racism trainings offered through the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR), the New England Public Health Training Center, the Vermont Peace and Justice Center, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, and PowerPlay. We are currently partnering with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), Lake Champlain Sea Grant (LCSG), the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD), the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC), and Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) on ongoing racial equity training. As part of our mission, we are also paying people from under-served communities to advise us on how key high-profile programs such as our cyanobacteria monitoring program can better reach and support under-served communities. We have recently launched a Water Protection Internship program which will dedicate one internship project per year to a DEI-focused topic in the Lake Champlain Basin. We will also offer a \$2,000 scholarship to a BIPOC, traditionally, under-served, or first-generation college student and/or a student who has demonstrated a strong commitment to DEI issues in the Lake Champlain Basin.

The program will begin in September 2021 and end in August 2022. We look forward to meeting you!

