

2017-2018 ECO AmeriCorps Members

Member Profiles



VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ECO AmeriCorps



Farrah Ashe

Farrah received a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Vermont in 2017. Farrah is serving as the Battenkill Watershed Habitat Steward with the Battenkill Watershed CISMA. She is originally from Londonderry, NH and has decided to serve a year with ECO AmeriCorps because she would like to develop her own professional knowledge while also protecting ecosystems that Vermont citizens and herself enjoy! Farrah has been creating materials for educational invasive workshops and planning her spring and summer projects that include helping the US Forest Service with invasive species control and site restoration, monitoring and mapping invasive species at local recreational parks, and preparing for manual and chemical treatment of invasive species at multiple sites in the Batten Kill watershed. Farrah has been creating materials for educational invasive workshops and planning her spring and summer projects that include helping the US Forest Service with invasive species control and site restoration, monitoring and mapping invasive species at local recreational parks, and preparing for manual and chemical treatment of invasive species at multiple sites in the Batten Kill watershed.

Corey Aydlett

Corey received a degree from North Carolina State with a degree in Environmental Technology and Management in 2017. He is serving with the Lake Champlain Basin Program as an Education and Outreach Assistant. Corey originally hails from Raleigh NC and moved to the North East to serve a term in the ECO AmeriCorps program because he would like to gain new experiences in a new location where he is doing something that he is passionate about.

Trevor Banister

Trevor is serving a second term with ECO AmeriCorps! He has a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndonville State College and is serving as the Northern Waters Steward for the Northwoods Stewardship Center. Trevor is originally from Walden Vermont and chose to serve a second year with ECO AmeriCorps because he enjoyed his experience with the Northwoods Stewardship Center last year!

Nikki Boudah

Nikki received a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Vermont in 2017. She is serving in her hometown of Middlebury Vermont as the Water Quality Planner for the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Nikki decided to serve with ECO AmeriCorps after having temped with the program over the summer. She could see how beneficial the work experience in an environmental field was and how trainings and networking opportunities provided growth to the members. She is excited to be part of the ECO AmeriCorps community full of people with similar passions as her own!

Thomas Bryce

Tom received a degree in Civil Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2014 and an MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Vermont in 2016. Tom is originally from Chatham, MA and is serving as a GIS and Field Technician for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Tom decided to serve a second year in ECO AmeriCorps because he thought it would be a great opportunity for advancing his pursuit of becoming an Environmental/Ag engineer. Tom has been Providing GIS Database Cleanup for VAAF Water Quality Division, assisting with the creation of farm inspection GIS maps, assisting with GIS mapping land use/land cover and conservation efforts known in the Lake Carmi Watershed in Franklin, VT. and conducting soil sampling in agricultural fields in the Lake Carmi Watershed in Franklin, VT.

David Cavagnaro

David received a degree in Earth Sciences from Dartmouth College in 2017. He is serving as an Assistant Project Coordinator for Friends of Lake Champlain. David is originally from Kennebunk, Maine and decided to move to Vermont to pursue service with ECO AmeriCorps because he wanted to learn about a different kind of environmental science while helping communities at the same time! He is looking forward to meeting a diverse array of people and organizations during his service term.

Daniel Denora

Dan is from Verona, New Jersey and attended the University of Maryland where he received a BS in Environmental Science and Technology in 2017. Dan is serving with the Lake Champlain Committee as an Outreach and Education Coordinator. He decided to pursue a service term with ECO AmeriCorps because doing so will allow him to pursue his interest in service while learning about how non-profit organizations function. He believes this service term is a great opportunity to perform meaningful environmental work and gain valuable career experience! He has planned and organized the LCC's Annual Meeting, which brings together friends of the lake to discuss accomplishments from last year and the environmental challenges they face going forward. Daniel has also been putting together a pharmaceutical disposal outreach program to educate residents of the Champlain Basin about safe drug disposal. He is now beginning to organize LCC's April Stools Day and Scoop the Poop cleanup events.

Billy Ernest

Billy received an A.A.S from SUNY College of Technology at Alfred State in Veterinary Technology in 2012 and a BS from SUNY Oswego in 2015 in Zoology. Billy is originally from Almond, NY and decided to join ECO AmeriCorps for a second service term because he wanted to continue making connections between waste management and water quality as well as further investigate how those disciplines affect the ecosystems around us. Billy enjoys serving his community through ECO AmeriCorps and hopes to further build beneficial relationships between key partners in the region. Billy is serving as the Water Quality Planning Associate for the Windham Regional Planning Commission.

Sujata Gautam

Sujata received a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Houston in 2017. She is originally from McKinney, Texas and decided to join the ECO AmeriCorps team because the opportunity would allow her to explore the relationship between education and service while combining her diverse interests of teaching and aiding others. Sujata is serving as the Education and Outreach Specialist for the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District. Sujata has communicated with over 550 residents about best materials management practices at local community events since her service began! Sujata has really enjoyed her time serving in the Lamoille region and engaging with its vibrant communities. She has embraced Vermont as her new home and is involved in a myriad of activities. In addition to her involvement in the community through the LRSWMD, Sujata also serves on the Morrisville Fire Department and volunteers at the Lamoille pop up shelters and with the Vermont Migrant Education Program.

Jordyn Geller

Jordyn received a degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Vermont in 2017. She is originally from Croton-on-Hudson, NY and has chosen to serve a year with ECO AmeriCorps because she would like to give back to a community that has given her so much during her time at UVM! She would also like to expand her knowledge on environmental issues and is motivated to help improve water quality in Vermont. Jordyn is serving with the Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) as the Best Management Practices Verification and Project Communications Coordinator. In her position she supports CWIP outreach by increasing partner and public knowledge of water quality impacts and remediation options through enhanced communication efforts. Jordyn also is active in piloting a program to field-verify performance and maintenance status of implemented, state-funded water quality best management practices (BMPs).

[Brodie Haenke](#)

Brodie received a degree in Geology from the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire in 2016. He is originally from Eagan, MN and is serving as the Natural Resources Conservation Assistant at the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District and the USDA NRCS in St. Albans. Brodie is currently the project leader on two water quality monitoring programs focused on sediment and nutrient loading in Franklin County. One study is in partnership with the Agency of Agriculture and targets tile drain outlets and the other is part of the LaRosa Partnership Program and focuses on the Hungerford Brook and Black Creek subwatersheds. Brodie also provides technical assistance to farmers completing a Certified Nutrient Management Plan - this includes soil sampling, map making, and thoughtful planning with each landowner.

[Becca Harris](#)

Becca received a degree in Environmental and Political Science from Tulane University in 2016. She is originally from Hobbs, NY and joins ECO AmeriCorps as the Conservation Easement Stewardship Assistant with the USDA NRCS in Colchester. Becca decided to serve in ECO AmeriCorps because she wasn't ready to leave Vermont and she enjoyed seeing the impacts that past members were having on their environment and community! She is assisting with the stewardship of Conservation Easements statewide. Stewardship tasks include site monitoring, site evaluation, and GIS analysis on conservation easements.

[Sarah Lundquist](#)

Sarah received a degree in Psychology and American Sign Language from Western Oregon University in 2017. She is originally from Mountlake Terrace, WA and will be joining the Addison County Solid Waste Management District this year as their Waste Diversion Assistant. Sarah decided to participate in the ECO AmeriCorps program because she is passionate about sustainability and environmental studies as well as ECO AmeriCorps being a good way to serve in her community and grow in the field. Sarah has focused on general outreach projects to businesses, schools, and residents regarding waste reduction, recycling, composting, and hazardous waste. She has presented to schools and community groups, checked in with businesses about their recycling and composting efforts, and created outreach materials, such as a Hazardous Waste Brochure. The second half of her service term will be focused on planning and implementing a Repair Café, a community event that promotes repair as an alternative to throwing broken items away.

Emily Markstein

Emily received a BA from SUNY Oswego in 2015 in History and later pursued a master's degree in Medieval Studies from the University of St. Andrews. As a second-year member Emily, who is originally from Binghamton NY, chose to participate in ECO AmeriCorps again because she wanted to continue serving in Vermont while meeting people in a new community. She also wanted to continue expanding upon her background in forestry and dendrology. She is spending this service term as a Conservation Nursery Field and Watershed Steward Assistant at the Intervale Conservation Nursery.

Elena Mederas

Elena received a degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2017. She is originally from Clintonville WI and is serving with the Vermont Land Trust as the Assessment and Planning Assistant. In this capacity, Elena assists the VLT field team in conserving farmland by creating maps and analyzing soil types of potential land easements using ArcGIS. She also accompanies VLT staff on site visits to meet with farmers and discuss their eligibility for an agricultural easement and flag areas of ecological significance that may require additional protections, such as riparian buffer zones. Beyond her work with farms, she is involved in adding ecological information of conserved land to the VLT natural community geodatabase and is developing a riparian buffer tree planting project for the spring.

Liza Morse

Liza is a 2015 graduate from Grinnell College where she received a degree in Spanish and Biology. She is originally from Amherst MA and will be serving with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies as their Vernal Pool Monitoring Project Coordinator. Liza chose to serve with ECO AmeriCorps because she had just finished a year serving as an AmeriCorps member for the Nature Conservancy in West Virginia and believes that AmeriCorps is valuable for the community as well as the individual member. She has helped develop and implement a citizen science program to monitor vernal pools throughout the state of Vermont. Serving as the Program Coordinator, Liza's tasks range from volunteer recruitment to field monitoring to conference organizing and more.

Heather Murphy

Heather graduated from Johnson State College in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science. She is originally from Morgan VT and is serving with the Missisquoi River Basin Association as the Watershed Outreach Technician. Heather decided to serve with ECO AmeriCorps because she would like to eventually pursue a master's degree in environmental science and Management and serving with the Missisquoi River Basin will provide her with valuable work experience and insight. Heather hasn't let the -20° weather in East Berkshire slow her down this winter. Since the snow fell, Heather designed a new website for the Missisquoi River Basin Association (which is live at mrbavt.com), wrote two grants for summer outreach projects, refined the MRBA's water sampling program, and published new outreach material. If you live in the Missisquoi River Basin, keep an eye on your town offices and get ready to pick up a Watershed Tour Brochure! This outreach tactic encourages citizens explore and discover 17 hidden gems throughout the Missisquoi Watershed.

Marissa Ng

Marissa graduated from the University of Vermont in 2016 with a degree in Biology. She is originally from Upton MA and is spending her second ECO AmeriCorps service term with the USDA NRCS as their Wetlands Assistant. She chose to serve a second year with ECO AmeriCorps because of all the opportunities that ECO affords its members. She is looking forward to a field-based position this term! Her service focuses on restoring and protecting Vermont's wetlands through monitoring, mapping, and outreach to landowners.

Jessica Richter

Jess is a 2017 graduate from Eckerd College where she received a degree in Marine Science. She is joining the ECO AmeriCorps team because she wants to stand up for the environment and share her passion with as many people as she can. Jess is serving with the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission as the Water Quality Monitor and Road Erosion Steward. So far in her service, Jess has completed road erosion inventories that evaluate hydrologically-connected road segments for potential drainage issues, created GIS maps for various watershed related projects, completed an Ecosystem Restoration Grant proposal application for a riparian buffer planting, and is currently coordinating water quality monitoring efforts for the Ottauquechee River Group.

Elijah Schumacher

Elijah is joining the ECO AmeriCorps team and serving with the VT DEC Monitoring Assessment and Planning Program as an Environmental Technician. He received a degree in Environmental Studies and Conservation Biology in 2015 from Cornell College. Elijah is from Cabot VT and is looking forward to being able to contribute to protecting Vermont's natural resources for others to enjoy and laying the ground work for a career in conservation.

Cara Stapleford

Cara received a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont in 2017. She is originally from Garden City, NY and is serving with the Central Vermont Solid Waste District as their Community Zero Waste Assistant. Cara chose to serve with ECO AmeriCorps because she feels as if the program is a perfect way to pursue her own interests in the environmental field as well as develop skills and knowledge that she needs to begin her career in that area.

Eric Thorpe

Eric is a 2015 graduate from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth with a degree in Liberal Arts concentrations in Sociology and Sustainability. He is originally from Somerset MA and is serving with the Waste Management and Prevention Division at the DEC as their Universal Recycling Outreach Coordinator. Eric decided to pursue a service term with ECO AmeriCorps because it seemed like an excellent opportunity to develop his skillset and gain further experience in the field of sustainability. Eric has been busy analyzing food scrap tonnage data and completing some good ol' fashioned direct business outreach across the state regarding the Universal Recycling Law!

Carlie Wright

Carlie is a 2016 graduate of St. Lawrence University where she received a degree in Conservation Biology. Carlie, originally from Middlebury, VT, chose to serve a second term in ECO AmeriCorps because her first service term was very eye opening and she wanted to gain more work experience in an environmental field. Carlie is serving at the DEC Clean Water Initiatives Program as their Social Indicator and Communication Assistant as well as with the ECO AmeriCorps program as this year's Team Leader!

Hannah Yates

Hannah is a 2015 graduate of College of Charleston where she received a degree in Geology. Originally from Charlottesville VA, Hannah decided to serve with ECO AmeriCorps because she would like to be able to fully participate in community engagement towards a sustainable future. Hannah is serving at the Lake Champlain Sea Grant as the Green Infrastructure Collaborative Assistant.

