

ECO AmeriCorps Host Site Application 2022-'23

Since 2015, ECO has enjoyed working with an inspiring list of conservation partners in providing environmental leaders a paid opportunity to serve Vermont communities. ECO AmeriCorps values all voices and identities in the conservation space. We seek to uplift and engage diversity, equity and inclusion commitments in service and in our state. Thank you for your interest in joining us!

For more information on host site application supporting documents:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/administration-innovation/eco/current-host-organizations>

Contact:

dustin.bowman@vermont.gov

802-461-5222

ECO AmeriCorps Living Stipend:

\$21,335 (full-time members)

\$11,295 (half-time members)

Host Site cost based on # of full-time employees:

Full-Time (1,700 hours over 11 months)

0-3 \$7,500

3-10 \$8,400

>10 \$9,800

Half-Time (900 hours over 6 months)

\$4,900 regardless of size

Quarter-Time (450 hours over 3 months)

\$2,450 regardless of size

Service Site Responsibilities

- Provide host site match based on organizational size
- Participate in ECO member recruitment, confirm member selection, arrange site training, member supervision and support throughout term of service, other forms and documentation as required by AmeriCorps, reviews bi-weekly member timesheets, mileage reimbursement for service-related travel.
- Supervisor must attend AmeriCorps supervisor orientation (or make special arrangements).
- Applicants must submit a Certificate of Insurance, indicating that the entity or entities have met the insurance requirements listed in Attachment C (see risk assessment document).

Full-Time Member Benefits*

Living Stipend: \$21,335 Education Award: \$6,495

Other Benefits: Professional development training, networking opportunities, health care, child care assistance, program support, mileage/meals reimbursement for ECO AmeriCorps-related travel.

*Benefits for half-time and part-time members are prorated.

VT-DEC administers the member's living stipend, health care benefits, child care benefits, timesheets, activity reports, and other AmeriCorps and employee-related benefits and documentation.

Organization Name *

Shelburne Farms Institute for Sustainable Schools

Organization Address *

1611 Harbor Rd

Supervisor Name and Title *

Jennifer Cirillo, Director of Professional Learning

Email *

jcirillo@shelburnefarms.org

Phone number *

802 985 0315

Which hosting category are you applying to? Note: ECO prefers full-time members for the vast majority of our program opportunities. Please contact Coordinator dustin.bowman@vermont.gov with questions. *

- Full-Time (September-August)
- Half-Time (flexible)
- Quarter-Time (May-August)

How many ECO Service Members are you applying to host? *Note* The program looks to disperse capacity builders geographically and by experience. Consideration will be given to those that can demonstrate unique need. *

- 1
- 2

Host Site Contribution Method *

- Lump Sum
- Quarterly, *program preference is for one-time payment (reach out with questions)

Please provide a brief description of your role at your organization. *

Jen is the Director of Professional Learning at Shelburne Farms Institute for Sustainable Schools and works to support educators to integrate sustainability into their curriculum, campus practices, collaborations with community partners, families and youth. She works on programs such as Farm to School & Education for Sustainability Graduate Certificate and Climate Change Education efforts. She is a former A*VISTA and has supported several A*VISTAs at Shelburne Farms.

What is the title of the position you are requesting? *

Teen Program Education and Outreach Assistant

Describe your proposed service position. Please outline the role. *

As an ECO AmeriCorps Member/Teen Program Education and Outreach Assistant on our Education team you will teach and support teen education programs both on and off the Farm. Your primary responsibility will be to co-design, collaboratively teach and provide learning experiences in our partner programs including Burlington City and Lake Semester and Cultivating Pathways to Sustainability. We're looking for someone who is a passionate educator, who will communicate effectively with peers and teens to create a respectful learning environment and someone who is excited to grow through self reflection and receiving feedback from youth, peer educators, and mentors.

What are the essential functions that the applicant must be able to perform? These may be listed in bullet form. *

- *Co-plan, support and teach custom, youth-driven place & project-based learning experiences in partnership with Burlington High School educators and Shelburne Farms education staff in the Burlington City and Lake Semester program. (3 days/week during the school year).
- *Support teams of youth and adults engaged in Cultivating Pathways to Sustainability program (in partnership with UP for Learning) in Vermont middle and high schools. (1-2 days/month during the school year).
- *Recruit for, co-plan and teach in Shelburne Farms' place-based, food systems, & sustainability education programs designed to support teens, both on and off-site. This could include coordinating service-learning projects with teens on site and teen summer programming. (1-2 days/ week; year-round, daily in summer)
- *Attend and engage in planning meetings and spend time preparing lessons and materials (weekly)
- *Participate in Education Team meetings, Shelburne Farms all staff meetings, and professional learning related to education topics, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, etc. (weekly to monthly)
- *Support a continuous effort to build and sustain a diverse and welcoming working and learning environment for all program participants, guests, and staff. (on-going)
- *Attend and support safety training and maintain safety standards. (on-going)
- *Bring your curiosity, enthusiasm, skills, and gifts to Shelburne Farms programming and community at large. (daily!)

What are the secondary functions? These are projects or tasks that may be accomplished as time allows or applicant's interests evolve. *

Develop programming in collaboration with teens and other Shelburne Farms staff that sparks youth passion, interest and your curiosity for a healthy and just planet.

Support other educational efforts, including farmyard programs, adult and public programs, and/or teacher professional learning some of which may occur on occasional evenings and weekends.

Participate in and/or provide support for seasonal special events some of which may occur on occasional evenings and weekends.

What are the desired qualification for this position? *

Preferred Skills & Experience

Experience with: farm-based, place-based, and environmental education; and/or education for sustainability. Experience teaching teens or older youth, interpretation and/or public programming.

Strong communication and collaborative skills.

Desire to develop youth-adult partnerships for learning, elevating youth voice in programs, and creating opportunities for youth decision-making.

Positive and flexible attitude with co-workers, youth and collaborating teachers.

Solution-oriented mindset when faced with challenges.

Desire to take initiative in programming, your growth as an educator, and the care of our teaching spaces.

Bachelor's Degree or equivalent

Commitment to equity, justice, and inclusion within teaching practice and work environment

Will the member have access to "vulnerable populations"? This includes youth, elderly and individuals with disabilities. *

Yes

No

What initiatives does your organization take to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice and how will the ECO member be included or supported in this work? *

Shelburne Farms recognizes that justice, equity, and access are central to sustainability. We are committed to translating these values into action across the organization by improving equitable outcomes in our culture, programs, and services. Shelburne Farms is working to create experiences of belonging for all, including BIPOC, LGBTQ+ communities, people with disabilities, and people of all economic realities. We are passionate about building and sustaining a diverse and welcoming working and learning environment for all program participants, guests, and staff. Our education team regularly engages in learning for JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) with sessions on topics such as culturally sustaining pedagogy and Indigenous Land Acknowledgements. The ECO member will be learning alongside and contributing to our JEDI work with staff and partners.

Please provide information that provides a compelling need for the proposed position (data, statistics, resources, etc.) *

Near-peer leadership is an important strategy for teen social-emotional learning, engagement and positive development that will support Shelburne Farms' efforts to re-connect students to the people, places, and possibilities in our community. We see the ECO AmeriCorps playing this vital role of a near-peer. Near-peers are used in mentoring and teaching models where the more experienced young professional (ECO AmeriCorps) would act as a facilitator and mentor for teens. We noted this need in the Burlington City & Lake Semester program where many students are looking for near-peers to help them consider opportunities for learning beyond high school or in the community. A near-peer ideally would reflect and respect the diversity of students served in Burlington High School (BHS), one of the most diverse schools in the state with approximately 40% of students from the global majority, 10% English Learners, and 50% of students from low-income families. We seek to serve teens from diverse backgrounds in all of our programs and hope that the ECO AmeriCorps member can work to outreach and recruit potential program participants as a near-peer.

Describe the supervisor's leadership experience. Will they have adequate time to manage and mentor an ECO AmeriCorps member? *

Jen Ciirillo has supported 5 AmeriCorps*VISTAs, is herself a former A*VISTA who served in Vermont as a member and state lead, and has been working at Shelburne Farms for 19 years supervising numerous staff and consultants. Jen will support the ECO AmeriCorps member and coordinate with several mentors both at Shelburne Farms and in our partnership programs, including Signe Daly at Burlington City and Lake Semester.

Describe how your organization has adapted to COVID-19. What communication strategies and tools have you implemented? i.e. teleservice, remote service, etc. *

Shelburne Farms educators have continued to support schools, educators and youth through a variety of virtual programming from videos from the Farm to Zoom virtual classrooms. Staff have received support to create engaging online learning experiences to ensure our place-based pedagogy, hands-on learning and experiential learning practices are elevated.

Describe networking opportunities that will be available to your service member. *

Shelburne Farms is part of many networks that the ECO AmeriCorp member might choose to engage with including the Vermont Environment and Education Network, Farm Based Education Network, VT Farm to School Network and the Climate Change Education Network. Depending on the member's interest they will have several opportunities to learn about and attend network events.

Is there someone in your organization's network that might be interested in mentoring your ECO service member? *Note, 1-2 hours per month, not required

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Does your organization currently host or plan to host an AmeriCorps member from another program? If yes, briefly describe the duties of this other position. *

We don't currently host an AmeriCorps however we have hosted 5 A*VISTA members in the past and have worked with post-college "Residents" who have work in our education programs for 9 months for several decades. We are well set up to support and mentor AmeriCorps and other young professionals.

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

A reliable vehicle is necessary in order to be on site at Shelburne Farms (if living off site) or to be at school sites. Shelburne Farms is unfortunately not on the bus line.

Are you willing to search with program staff over the summer to help your ECO member secure affordable and safe housing?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Performance Measures

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.

Document can be found here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/administration-innovation/eco/current-host-organizations/prospectivehostsites>

Water Quality and Trail Improvement - Please project Impact Numbers on miles of river/stream/trail treated and/or improved. *

We anticipate that as in previous years with both the Burlington City and Lake Semester and Cultivating Pathways teen projects supported by ECO AmeriCorps member will impact local trails (in city of Burlington's Intervale and Shelburne Farms) and waterways (Winooski River, Laplatte, and Lake Champlain). Typically youth are working to provide improve or restore habitat by removing invasive species, replanting trees, or similar service-learning activities. We project approximately half of our 10 miles of trails to be impacted at Shelburne Farms by programs supported by the ECO AmeriCorps members and 1-3 miles of trails in Burlington (Intervale or other sites chosen by teens). We project that approximately 1 mile of shoreline of Lake Champlain will be directly and indirectly impacted by the efforts of teens and the ECO AmeriCorps member through service projects on Shelburne Farms and the City of Burlington.

Land Conservation and Remediation - Please project impact numbers on acres of public parks or other public, publicly managed or tribal lands improved. *

In collaboration with our natural resource manager removal of aquatic and/or terrestrial invasive species through teen service-learning projects the ECO AmeriCorps member will impact 21 acre sugarbush situated in over 400 acres of woodlands at Shelburne Farms.

Community Engagement Outreach and Education - Please project number of individuals receiving environmental stewardship education or training. *

Education programs focused specifically on teens serve approximately 200 teens a year with deep, place-based, experiential programming spanning from one week to a full year. We anticipate assessing 50-75 program participants regarding increased knowledge, skills, and values related to environmental stewardship and change in behaviour through focus groups and/or surveys.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms