

Ellie Schiappa Member Spotlight



Ellie Schiappa (she/her) is a busy bee who serves as ECO AmeriCorps' Team Leader while also masterfully coordinating communications for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation! Ellie grew up in a small rural town in Western PA, and graduated from Slippery Rock University in May 2019 with a degree in Environmental Studies & Sustainability and a minor in Communications. After volunteering abroad throughout college, she decided to pursue a domestic service position. Her search led her to the ECO Program, and we're so glad that it did!

Ellie heads up the program's social media and other communication efforts and assists with organizing training sessions, service days, and other events. She also does what she can to keep the members, who are dispersed throughout the state, connected to each other and program staff. On the DEC side of things, she participates in various groups, including the Environmental Justice Committee, Village Wastewater Initiative, DEC Social Media Team, and Cross-Communications Committee. Her various roles and responsibilities enable her to support her fellow ECO members and ensure that everyone is included. As the group switched to a mostly online format this spring due to the pandemic, Ellie has assisted the group in the transition. In addition to keeping things relevant for everyone programmatically, Ellie has responded to the COVID crisis by volunteering with a local organization and delivering meals to individuals who are homeless and others placed in hotels by the state's stay at home order. Lately she has also been pursuing yoga teacher certification, participating in trainings and offering sessions to ECO members and others while we've been serving from home.

She states that the reason she serves is "to connect communities, share their story, and increase access to environmental information and communication. I strive to provide as much support to my community, while ensuring they feel heard & connected to each other," and she has been doing a wonderful job of this! Her positive attitude and proficiency in social media and communications has brought the group closer as a team, and kept things running smoothly, even amidst local and global changes. We know that she will be an asset wherever she chooses to go in the future!