



AmeriCorps Project Conserve **2017 – 2018 Service Description**



AmeriCorps Position Title: Habitat Restoration & Volunteer Coordinator
Host Site: Pacolet Area Conservancy
Service Term: September 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018

Supervisor Name: Pam Torlina
Supervisor Title: Director of Stewardship & Land Protection
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Host Site Mission Statement:

To protect and conserve natural resources in the Foothills of North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina, with emphasis on the lands and waterways with scenic, ecologic or agricultural significance in the North Pacolet and Green River watersheds.

Summary of Position:

The AmeriCorps member will provide service in the community to eradicate non-native and invasive species on public land which will restore native habitat and provide public benefit. The member will organize and train volunteers and help educate the local community about practical techniques that can be used to improve affected properties, resulting in enhanced environmental impact.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to perform somewhat strenuous manual labor outdoors and in various weather conditions
- Ability to work both independently and with a team
- Knowledge of native and non-native flora (or at least the ability to learn how to identify non-native plants)
- Ability to operate, or willingness to be trained to operate, chain saws and brush blades
- Ability to take on a leadership role
- Public speaking/facilitation skills
- Good interpersonal skills, suitable for working with volunteers and the public / Ability to connect with diverse types of organizations: schools, businesses, government, faith organizations, etc.
- Basic computer skills
- Detail-oriented and organized
- Ability to develop and implement project plans
- Ability to translate activities into an educational document
- Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States, and consent to a criminal history check.

Preferred Service Hours / Weekly Schedule:

9:00 am - 4:00 pm, M-F (occasional Saturday)

Position Responsibilities and Duties

Conservation Education: 15%

- Create an in-class education program that will reach school-age students about non-native and invasive plants and eradication
- Create presentations to train adults/community residents/landowners in the field about non-native and invasive plants and eradication
- Demonstrate techniques for invasive plant eradication
- Assist in implementing existing community outreach programs

Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP): 10%

- Recruit volunteers for invasive species management
- Train volunteers in invasive species management/eradication practices
- Create volunteer sign-in sheets and check list
- Recognize volunteers through press releases, mentions in newsletter, social events, thank you cards/letters
- Supervise volunteer tasks

At-Risk Ecosystem Impacts: 75%

- Treat public lands by coordinating invasive species management
- Organize activities that encourage community participation in collecting data to identify and improve at risk ecosystems by creating an invasive species inventory and eradication plan on project sites
- Coordinate initiatives that engage area residents in invasive species eradication and monitoring
- Integrate effective digging techniques for eradication of exotic species
- Demonstrate efficient cutting and trimming methods followed by permanent eradication
- Proper application of herbicide, when necessary, resulting in the least negative environmental impact

Additional Comments

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to fulfilling host site service responsibilities, all Project Conserve members are required to fully participate in team trainings, service projects and statewide AmeriCorps events. Project Conserve team events will occur approximately twice per month in locations throughout the service area and may require up to three overnight stays.

Essential Functions

- Using computer software and online programs for conservation-based education and outreach initiatives, including social networking, written articles and press releases.
- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, low-income residents, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).

- Training, supporting, coordinating, and recognizing volunteers for conservation-based volunteer opportunities.
- Conducting field-based monitoring, assessment, and management of conservation properties, public lands, and/or water quality monitoring sites.

Equipment/Software Used:

Sprayer, Brush Cutter, Chain Saw / Microsoft Office

Physical Demands:

Moderate with good endurance

Transportation Needs:

Car

Setting / Location of Service Activities:

PAC protected lands (outdoors) & PAC office; possibly schools/summer camps