Environmental Education & Stewardship Specialist

Middlebury Area Land Trust, Middlebury, VT

This position is part of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorps (VHCB AmeriCorps). The VHCB AmeriCorps program supports the innovative dual-goal approach to creating stable affordable housing opportunities for Vermont residents while preserving the natural and working landscape. VHCB AmeriCorps is a national service program that places members with non-profit housing or land and energy conservation organizations around the state.

The Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) works with our community to conserve natural and productive landscapes, and to enhance scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities. Based in Middlebury, VT and serving Addison County, this AmeriCorps Member position will connect youth and adults with 3,500 acres of conserved lands and 30 miles of public recreation trails. The member will inspire and foster a strong environmental ethic through nature science education for youth and responsible outdoor recreation programming.

Essential Functions:

- Teach environmental education programs for audiences ages 3 to adulthood;
- Co-develop and teach summer day camps for children ages 3-14, mentor and supervise teen counselors-in-training;
- Teach outreach programs for schools, camps, and other groups;
- Develop evaluation tools gauging success of programs. Maintain performance measurement records for all education programs;
- Collaborate with the Executive Director and seasonal interns to achieve outreach and education goals;
- Collaborate with the 2018-2019 VT ECO AmeriCorps member to improve public engagement in land stewardship. Identify opportunities to host environmental education on MALT’s conserved lands;
- Attend professional development opportunities geared towards improving the quality and reach of our programs and individual professional growth;
- Participate in regular evaluations of AmeriCorps experience, including a written final report outlining the year of service, documenting the number of hours spent providing outreach, recommendations for future outreach, and evaluating the education programs;
- Participate in an Independent Service Project under the guidance of VHCB AmeriCorps;
- Participate in VHCB AmeriCorps Trainings, Service Days, Events, and Program Initiatives.
- Engage in professional and personal development activities and networking opportunities.

Marginal Functions:

- Help publicize events via social media, website, flyers, and blogs;
- Assist with special events as an educator (e.g., Middlebury Green Up Day, the TAM Trek (annual race around the Trail Around Middlebury, etc.)
- Other duties relevant to AmeriCorps service as assigned and within AmeriCorps Guidelines.
Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies, Education, or related field; 3-4 years of teaching experience, preferably in an outdoor or alternative education setting can be substituted for formal education.
- A strong interest in and knowledge of conservation, natural history, and environmental pedagogy. These include core routines of nature connection (e.g., sit spot, journaling, mapping), and natural history topics (e.g., birding, environmental sciences, animal tracking, wilderness living, climate change science, animal behavior, botany, and geology);
- Experience developing and leading outdoor environmental education activities, as well as working with preschool-age (3 to 5), school-age (6 to 18), and adult audiences;
- Strong group management skills; ability to guide a group of up to 30 children/adults;
- Love of outdoor exploration and questioning, ability to model curiosity and wonder about the natural world;
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team;
- Excellent organizational and communication skills, experience with marketing and social media tools such as Facebook, blogs, Mail Chimp, and Survey Monkey;
- A strong service ethic and desire to do meaningful and challenging work to better a community;

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be US citizen or have permanent resident status;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation or 17 years of age with written parental permission that has been verified by phone;
- Be a high school graduate, have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards a GED as part of the service-term. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps.
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo an National Service Criminal History Check
- Be committed to the VHCB AmeriCorps program’s ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.
- Access to a personal vehicle recommended, mileage reimbursement provided.

Additional Information:

Service locations will vary but all will take place in the greater Middlebury area, within Addison County. Service will take place in indoor and outdoor settings and in all weather conditions. Service hours may vary and will include some weekends and evenings.

Position begins February 11th, 2019 and ends August 9th, 2019.

This position is Half Time: Requires 900 hours for an average of 40 hours per week for 26 weeks. Member will receive a living allowance of $10,800 (pre-tax), and an education award of $2,960 (pre-tax) upon successful completion of service. Other benefits include health insurance, federal school loan forbearance, and various training and networking opportunities.
This position does have recurring access to vulnerable populations (youth, persons over 60, individuals with disabilities).

To Apply: http://www.vhcb.org/americorps/menu_events/positions/

For questions about this position or to send additional materials:

Jamie Montague

Executive Director, Middlebury Area Land Trust

PO Box 804, Middlebury, VT 05753

jamie@maltvt.org ; 802-388-1007

Application deadline: December 7th, 2018

Additional information on AmeriCorps is available at www.americorps.org.

The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) is sponsoring this AmeriCorps position through their AmeriCorps Program. VHCB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran’s status, religion or creed.

Member Name:___________________________ Signature:___________________________