

Environmental Education AmeriCorps Volunteer



Position Title: Environmental Education AmeriCorps Volunteer
Reports to: Education Programs Manager
Annual Stipend: \$22,495, full-time, 1700 hour position

BENEFITS

- Medical and Dental Insurance for full time (1,700 hour members)
- Eligible for Employers of National Service and Schools of National Service upon successful completion of service
- Federal Education Award- \$7,395 upon successful completion of service

WHO WE ARE. Wild Roots Nature Center links people to nature through education and research. We promote awareness of the natural world, fostering respect, enjoyment and preservation now and in the future. Wild Roots Nature Center is situated on a 369-acre county forest preserve with four miles of trails through prairie, savanna, oak woodland, creek and pond ecosystems. We aspire to be the local leader in nature education and create meaningful experiences with and for all ages. Our team seeks to build community connections while fostering an inclusive and innovative workplace.

YOUR ROLE. Volunteers support school field trip programs, after school programs, and public programs to help students and adults learn about local habitats, predator and prey interactions, food webs, animal and plant adaptations, and basic ecology of the area. During the term of service, Volunteers will receive training in all of the above topics, best practices in environmental education, group management, and have the opportunity to develop and try nature-based lessons and community programs of their own. We love to support Volunteers that want to try new and creative ways to connect people with nature. Wild Roots encourages people of all backgrounds and social identities to apply.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT. Wild Roots Nature Center is a strong collaborative team who see opportunity in every corner of our community. Our team takes pride in preparing AmeriCorps Volunteers for the next step of their professional journey and prioritizes the professional development and training opportunities for all Volunteers. The Rockford Area has a wealth of habitats to teach in, too!

ESSENTIAL DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **50 % Direct Teaching-** teach and lead field trips, in-school, and afterschool programs with support of School Programs Coordinator. Host hikes and activity stations for Public Programs with support of

Public Programs Coordinator.

- **20% Curriculum and Materials Development** - develop educational curriculum and lesson plans for school groups, general public, and camps, using current environmental education best practices. Create corresponding materials for lessons and programs with support of School Programs and Public Programs Coordinators.
- **15% Social Media Content**- with support from the Community Engagement Coordinator, create educational social media content including graphics and videos.
- **5% Blog Writing**- collaborates with the Community Engagement Coordinator to provide high quality, accurate content for publications and social media, including education and promotional material.
- **10% Support**- support annual special events, assist with minor facilities and grounds needs.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES The items listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, and abilities we are seeking. Reasonable accommodations will be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions unless undue hardship and/or a direct threat to the health and/or safety of the individual or others would result.

- Education: Some college coursework required.
- Teaching: Some experience teaching or leading programs for children and/or adults.
- Communication: Strong writing, editing and verbal communication skills with ability to adapt information to different audiences.
- Time management: Independently prioritize tasks, adhere to deadlines, communicate delays. Ability to maintain regular attendance and punctuality.
- Certifications: Must successfully obtain and maintain CPR and basic first aid certification. A valid Driver's License and reliable transportation are required (mileage reimbursed at the IRS rate).
- Systems: Ability to use or learn the following
 - Microsoft and Google Suites
 - Canva or similar programs for graphic design and video editing

PREFERRED SKILLS and EXPERIENCE

- Some knowledge of environmental sciences, biology, education practices, natural history, and related environmental issues
- Experience developing informal science programs and curriculum.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS. The physical demands described here are representative of those needed to successfully perform the essential functions of this service

While performing the duties of this service, the Volunteer is frequently required to walk, stand, sit, talk or hear. The Volunteer is frequently required to use hands to handle, feel or operate objects such as a computer or controls, and includes repetitive motions of the wrists, hands and/or fingers; and is required to reach with hands and arms. The Volunteer may be occasionally required to climb or balance; stoop, kneel or crouch. Sufficient vision, hearing and stamina to perform the above functions is needed. The Volunteer must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds occasionally and 10 pounds frequently.

SERVICE ENVIRONMENT. While performing the duties of this service, the Volunteer serves in an office environment, but is frequently exposed to outside weather conditions, including heat, humidity and cold. The noise level is usually quiet while in the office or moderately noisy when in the field.

TO APPLY: Please submit an application in the AmeriCorps system:

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=84612>

Wild Roots makes reasonable accommodations for service and interviews. There is some flexibility with the start date, if needed. Please contact Andrea Wallace Noble at 815-335-2915 or andrea@wildrootsnaturecenter.org for details. We have a 1,700 hour position available. The living stipend is \$22,495 and the federal education award is \$7,395 after successful completion of service.

This position description reflects Wild Roots Nature Center's best effort to describe the essential functions and qualifications of the position described. It is not an exhaustive statement of all the duties, responsibilities, or qualifications. This document is not intended to exclude the opportunity for modifications, providing reasonable accommodation.