



TERRACORPS

TerraCorps, is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals.

This year's TerraCorps program will support up to forty-eight full-time AmeriCorps Members, serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Collaboration Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Urban Agriculture Coordinator (UAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 26th, 2019-July 31st, 2020) in which they complete at least 1,700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

*****DO NOT MODIFY INFO ABOVE*****

Hilltown Land Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2019-20 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

2019 Land Stewardship Coordinator with Hilltown Land Trust

Hilltown Land Trust

332 Bullitt Road
Ashfield, MA 01330
Hilltown-land-trust.org

Hilltown Land Trust (HLT) serves thirteen rural towns in western Massachusetts (Ashfield, Chester, Chesterfield, Conway, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Windsor, and Worthington). Hilltown Land Trust's mission is to protect land and promote ecological diversity and health, respectful land stewardship, historic character and natural beauty in the Hilltowns of western Massachusetts. Since our founding in 1986, HLT has acquired 34 conservation restrictions (CRs) and owns 9 properties protecting over 4,000 acres. HLT maintains active hiking trails at four properties with development of a fifth property with trails in the coming year. In 2010, HLT and The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees), one of America's oldest statewide conservation organizations, launched a partnership to combine the efforts and resources of these two non-profit land conservation organizations in the Hilltowns. HLT and The Trustees continue to function as

independent entities, but now collaborate in order to increase the pace of land conservation in the Hilltowns.

Hilltown Land Trust's offices are located at the Bullitt Reservation in Ashfield, a large, beautiful, conserved property with public hiking trails and a small garden owned by The Trustees. The office building is a wheelchair-accessible, energy-efficient house with offices and a meeting room that also serves as an event space. Employees of The Trustees also make use of the Bullitt Reservation office space, and a workshop located in an adjacent barn. Hilltown Land Trust is staffed by two part-time, year-round employees. In addition to the office space in Ashfield, the regional office of The Trustees in Northampton is occasionally used by Hilltown Land Trust staff for work and meetings.

Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC) Build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. They organize, train, and collaborate with municipal boards, neighborhood and civic associations, community members, youth groups, and schools to care for, improve access to, and support the long-term resilience and sustainable use of community lands. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, they increase resources for community projects, demonstrate environmentally responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and nurture an inclusive sense of public ownership in the local landscape. LSCs spend roughly 60% of their time in the office and 40% in the field.

TerraCorps members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. Hilltown Land Trust has proposed the following potential projects for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:

- 1) **Enhance and expand the Volunteer Steward Program** by coordinating trainings, property monitoring visits, and service days: HLT has built a successful volunteer-based stewardship program such that most of our protected lands are monitored with the help of trained, volunteers who have made a long-term commitment to HLT. Volunteers also play an important role in managing the properties owned by HLT. This volunteer-based program requires annual management and regular recruitment and training of volunteers. The LSC will begin this project by receiving training in the organization's monitoring procedures and protocols. The LSC will coordinate and conduct fall monitoring visits with long-time HLT volunteers and then begin to recruit and train new stewardship volunteers through a series of outreach and training sessions. We hope to continue the engagement of UMass students in this work in the coming year.
- 2) **Baseline Documentation Reports:** Each year, HLT takes on new Conservation Restrictions and needs to develop Baseline Documentation Reports (BDRs) for those properties. We also need to update outdated BDRs for previously protected land. The LSC will work with HLT's Executive Director, experienced volunteers and staff of The Trustees to develop these documents and, in the process train additional volunteers in aspects of developing BDRs.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

Required AmeriCorps Qualifications

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

Desired Qualifications

- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Comfort navigating computer software programs (Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS, Wordpress)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Knowledge and direct experience with ArcGIS mapping software
- Ability to navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species

For questions about Hilltown Land Trust's service positions, contact Sally Loomis, Sloomis@thetrustees.org.

*****DO NOT MODIFY INFO BELOW*****

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year's TerraCorps members will serve from August 26th, 2019-July 31st, 2020. All members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 11-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and service with the full TerraCorps team. Weekly service averages 38 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

Member Compensation and Benefits

- TerraCorps members will receive a living allowance of up to \$14,600 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$608.33 (pre-tax) per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage. Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a taxable \$6,095 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
- TerraCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: TerraCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

How to Apply

2019-2020 Service Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at terracorps.org.

A complete member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at <https://terracorps.org/become-a-member/>.

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our service sites. Do not send applications directly to a service site.

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as soon as possible. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by late June, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process. Email admin@terracorps.org or call 978-364-9770 x2.

Additional Information About this Program

TerraCorps We seek to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: terracorps.org.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups

across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit americorps.gov.

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, mass-service.org) is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.