



Ohio Stream Restore Corps

Licking Soil & Water Conservation District 2017-18 Outreach and Education Liaison

Skills and Qualifications: This position requires the ability to work both independently and in a team setting. Excellent organizational and communication skills, the ability to work under deadline pressure and the ability to handle multiple tasks are vital to success in this position. Knowledge of MS Office software packages and general computer skills are required with experience in database management preferred. The ability to recruit and work with volunteers is essential. Understanding of environmental issues and concern for improving the environment is necessary. Ability to speak in public settings is required. A Bachelor's degree or working toward a degree of equivalent experience is recommended (an environmental sciences background is desirable). AmeriCorps members must possess the ability to work outdoors in adverse weather conditions (heat, cold, insects, etc.), be able to carry 40 pounds and to hike over rough terrain. Must have own transportation and valid driver's license. Usual hours of service will be M-F during regular office hours of 8:00-5:00pm. The ability to serve flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends, is needed. Hours may fluctuate, increase or decrease, in consideration of seasonal changes such as inclement weather or other extended activities such as summer camps.

Location: Newark, Ohio in Licking County at the Licking Soil & Water Conservation District office.

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorp Member:

- Participate in water quality monitoring activities such as field monitoring/data collections, data entry and analysis, mapping and how-to video creation
- Recruit, train and organize volunteers to assist in educational and other programming
- Provide native plant identification and interpretive signage as needed
- Participate in land lab and natural resources area project activities
- Assist with outreach and education activities including youth programming, teacher workshops and other events

- Assist with social media promotion, update brochures and outreach materials including the organizational newsletter
- Assist with Stormwater programming including mapping, inventorying and evaluation
- Participate in training and conferences as necessary to increase knowledge and gain career networking opportunities
- Complete 2 activity reports monthly, required timesheets and monthly reports in the OnCorps system online system
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description.

Additional Information: No public transportation is available. The Licking Soil & Water District office is accessible to members of the community with disabilities.

Rural Action, Ohio Stream Restore Corps and Licking Soil & Water Conservation District will adhere to all regulations concerning non-discrimination and equal opportunity regulations as outlined in federal and state law. This program will be made available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation and religion.



What you need to know before joining AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a national service program much like the Peace Corps, but for the United States. Members serve a term of service in an impacted community and receive a living allowance, some benefits, and an education award. There are AmeriCorps programs all over the U.S., and Rural Action's Ohio Stream Restore Corps is one of them. Members are placed by Rural Action into programs and partner sites. Rural Action handles the distribution of living allowance and the training calendar, but host sites manage the day to day activities and special events.

Some parts of the program are unique to Ohio Stream Restore Corps (such as our environmental restoration and education focus), while other experiences (like swearing in as members and using my.americorps.gov for all education award management) are standard for all AmeriCorps members.

How does it work?

1. You serve 1,700 hours in one term of service. A 12 month term works out to about 35 hours/week, BUT:
2. Many host sites have a variable schedule based on seasonal sampling, summer daycamps and field trips, events, and weather. Members can have a 2nd job, but it can be challenging to schedule around service.
3. Members receive:
 - Living allowance: \$12,630 annually. Federal, state, and locally taxable (so about \$900 monthly after taxes; can file a return).
 - Members are eligible to apply for food stamps, Medicaid, and PIPP if the living allowance is their only income.
 - Segal AmeriCorps Education Award: \$5,815.00 at end of successful term; Only for FEDERAL loans.
 - Can receive up to twice, if you complete a second AmeriCorps term.
 - Members can also place federal loans into forbearance during service.
 - Health plan: the Corps Network, \$100 to activate, pays 80% of costs w/ max \$2,000 pocket
 - Childcare subsidy for children of AmeriCorps, paid to eligible child care providers (income.based)
 - Program-level reimbursements: OSRC provides Training, Mileage, and Equipment budgets up to \$1,400 total.

4. Members are expected to accrue 170 to 255 training hours (10-15% of total time): For your service and for your post-AmeriCorps employability!

- Some training events provided but does not meet all hours; you must seek out more training
- Some trainings mandatory, e.g. Orientation and overnight retreat (March)

5. This is a rural program, so there is lots of driving. Members must have a reliable form of transportation and must budget mileage carefully.

- Our program does not provide housing, but we can help you find a place relatively close to your service site.

6. AmeriCorps trains you to be a paperwork master. There is lots of reporting: Twice monthly Timesheets, monthly reports, service reflections, Quarterly surveys and evaluations, and regular site visits.

7. If you are offered a position, service is contingent on a “clean” background check:

- Any convictions for murder or sexual offenses make you ineligible for AmeriCorps service
- Disclose everything; Hits for convictions you didn’t mention make you ineligible
- You will sign a consent form letting us run a sex offender check on you. You will need to run a state of residence, state of service (Ohio), and federal fingerprint-based criminal history check on yourself, reimbursable after the service term begins.

8. Things you can’t do (“disallowable activities”) during service hours:

- General or Federal fundraising
- Lobbying or political activism
- Endorsing or influencing legislation, a candidate, or an election
- Anything not in your member position description

9. Service is NOT a Job!

- No worker’s compensation or unemployment
- Does not pay into Social Security

Questions?

Shannon Stewart
Ohio Stream Restore Corps Program Assistant
Rural Action
9030 Hocking Hill Drive
The Plains, OH 45780
19627 Walnut St. (Physical)
Trimble, Ohio 45782

[740.767.4938](tel:740.767.4938) | shannon@ruralaction.org | www.ruralaction.org