



## TERRACORPS

**TerraCorps**, TerraCorps is an AmeriCorps affiliated start-up environmental non-profit preparing and mobilizing emerging leaders to help communities gain access to and conserve land for people and nature. Working at the intersection of the land conservation and urban agriculture movements, our vision is to create a future where land is the foundation of health and well-being for ALL people in EVERY community.

This year's TerraCorps program will support up to eighty-eight full-time AmeriCorps Members across three states (MA, RI, and CT), serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Collaboration Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator (SAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 31st, 2020-July 30, 2021) 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).

Aquidneck Land Trust will host a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the 2020-2021 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

### **Land Stewardship Coordinator with Aquidneck Land Trust**

#### **Aquidneck Land Trust**

790 Aquidneck Ave  
Middletown, RI 02842  
[www.aquidnecklandtrust.org](http://www.aquidnecklandtrust.org)

Aquidneck Land Trust's ("ALT") mission is to preserve and steward Aquidneck Island's open spaces for the lasting benefit of the community, while connecting people with the land that defines the island's natural character. ALT has existed for 30 years with a service area of three towns, covering approximately 25,000 acres on Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island. We work to connect people to nature, protect our drinking and coastal waters, preserve farmland and support local agriculture, provide places to play for the community, and work to make our island more resilient to climate change. ALT has conserved 2605 acres across 81 properties and manages over 12 miles of free hiking trails. We've conserved all types of lands including active farms, city parks, undisturbed habitat tracts, and cultural estates. A sampling of our outreach programs include a land-link farm access program, watershed and climate change education programs in local schools, free 'Walk and Talks' on our properties, art contests for children, and facilitating a local small grant program for grassroots organizations. ALT also collaborates with

all the municipalities and the many non-profits working in the area to broaden our impact. For more info about our work go to our [website](#).

About Aquidneck Island and ALT: Aquidneck Island which includes the towns of Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth has 60,000 year-round residents and many more seasonal residents. Newport is more urban with an active downtown and Middletown and Portsmouth are suburban with larger open spaces and farms. Aquidneck Land Trust has a staff of 7 working out of one office in Middletown. This position will work out of the same office and have opportunity to learn about all aspects of land conservation work in addition to the projects described.

**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 resiliency 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 generally 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. **Aquidneck Land Trust has proposed the following potential projects for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:**

- 1) Enhance and expand ALT's stewardship volunteering program covering topics including conservation easement monitoring, trail maintenance/improvement, property management, and outreach/education. This includes volunteer recruitment, leading work days, and coordinating volunteers.
- 2) Develop invasive species management and habitat restoration plans on highlighted ALT properties. Recruit and train invasive species removal teams to identify, target, and remove invasive species at these sites.
- 3) Update baseline species and conservation value data on a number of conservation sites, incorporating volunteer citizen science opportunities when possible.
- 4) Update trail Management Plans. Complete trail improvement projects on ALT's 12 miles of trails.
- 5) Assist Stewardship Department in monitoring of 81+ conservation sites; land management duties; landowner communications; trail maintenance and improvement projects. The member will get to experience a wide array of stewardship work.

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 and mapping programs (ArcGIS and applications, ArcGIS Online, Microsoft Office). ALT will also train the member on LANDSCAPE conservation database software.
- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Experience identifying habitat types and flora and fauna in the field
- Fieldwork experience and comfort navigating a variety of terrains. Fieldwork is done in all types of weather (rain, cold, heat, etc.) across all seasons and across different habitats (farms, bramble scrub-shrub, marsh, etc.). Ticks are common on many sites.
- Handiness/carpentry skills a plus (or willingness to learn) including operating power tools safely (hedge trimmers, brush cutter, chainsaw, drills) for trail improvement/maintenance projects.

*For questions about Aquidneck Land Trust's service positions, contact Alex Chuman, Stewardship Director at [achuman@ault.org](mailto:achuman@ault.org) (preferred) or 401-849-2799x14.*

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

This year's TerraCorps Members will serve from August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020-July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 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 \$15,200 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$633.33 (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 \$6,195 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See [nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward](https://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**

2020-2021 Service Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at [terracorps.org](https://terracorps.org).

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

Member applications will be collected by TerraCorps and shared with Service Sites. Do not send applications directly to a Service Site.

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as soon as possible once applications are posted mid-April. 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](mailto:admin@terracorps.org) or call 978-364-9770 x2.

### **Additional Information About this Program**

**TerraCorps** seeks 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](https://terracorps.org).

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 people 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](http://americorps.gov).

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).