



## 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 60 full-time AmeriCorps Members across Massachusetts and Rhode Island each serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Land Conservation Coordinator (LCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator (SAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 29th, 2022-July 28, 2023) 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 Community Table will host a Youth Education Coordinator for the 2022-23 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at [terracorps.org](https://terracorps.org).

### Youth Education Coordinator with Aquidneck Community Table

#### **Aquidneck Community Table**

16 Warner Street

Newport, RI 02840

[aquidneckcommunitytable.org](https://aquidneckcommunitytable.org)

Aquidneck Community Table's (ACT) mission is to grow a healthy local food system, accessible to all on our island. ACT brings together partners in the community to collectively build a healthier future and strengthen the island's food system, support the local economy, and expand access to fresh food for everyone. ACT's programs work directly in communities to grow more food, teach life skills, and empower individuals to take pride in their neighborhood green spaces.

ACT serves the population of Aquidneck Island in the towns of Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth, approximately 60,000 year-round residents, and considerably more in the tourist season. ACT was formed in 2016 when three existing organizations joined forces to operate three farmers markets (two summer and one year-round), three community gardens, two school gardens, the Food Explorers program for children, and several events designed to generate a community-wide conversation about food system change. Since then, ACT has built additional gardens in the North Side of Newport where economic challenges make it difficult for the community to access fresh fruits and vegetables. More garden spaces, as well as a pollinator garden, were added to ACT's community farm in Middletown on land conserved by the Aquidneck Land Trust. ACT has adapted to meet the needs of the community during the pandemic and has continued to work to make fresh, nutritious foods available to all.

**Youth Education Coordinators (YEC)** build the long-term capacity of their Service Site by engaging youth in service learning, experiential education, and inquiry-based science and nature learning projects. They collaborate with schools, libraries, and youth groups on projects that connect young people to the natural world, improve science literacy, and encourage healthy lifestyles. By serving with youth in an outdoor learning environment, they reinforce the connection between people, nature, and community and foster an inclusive land stewardship ethic in future generations.

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 Community Table has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Youth Education Coordinator:

- 1) ACT's Youth Education Coordinator may support the Pell Elementary School Garden Program through planning, preparing, and teaching students in grades K through 4 in their school garden. Leading hands-on, outdoor lessons, the YEC helps students draw connections to their science curriculum, health, and nutrition. Building on ACT's existing garden curriculum, the Member would collaborate with a team of garden educators to lead spring and fall garden classes. The YEC may also support fall and spring after-school programming with Portsmouth Middle School at the AgInnovation Farm. The YEC facilitates hands-on learning opportunities for students to participate in growing food while being active outdoors in fresh air.
- 2) ACT's Youth Education Coordinator may lead volunteers in farm-based projects at Island Community Farm or learning opportunities in ACT's pollinator garden and food forest. The YEC may support community gardeners and community groups as they learn the lifelong skill of growing food.
- 3) ACT's Youth Education Coordinator may participate in the program planning of ACT's Root Riders Youth Employment program for high school students. The Root Riders Program engages local youth in the meaningful effort of growing food for their communities. Biking from garden to garden in Newport's North End neighborhood, the students tend to ACT's school and community gardens then sell their bountiful harvests at the nearby farmers market in Miantonomi Park. The YEC may assist with community outreach to recruit students and may co-lead the Root Riders Program during the month of July.

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, for recurring access to vulnerable populations, including a search of the National Sex Offenders Public Website, a Rhode Island criminal record check, state of residence if different than Rhode Island, and a finger-print based FBI background 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
- Training and experience pertinent to the Youth Education Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Experience growing food organically
- Experience with experiential education, outdoor classroom management, and inquiry-based teaching
- Spanish-speaking skills preferred

For questions about Aquidneck Community Table's service positions, contact Mary-Kate Kane, Program & Administrative Manager at [mkane@aquidneckcommunitytable.org](mailto:mkane@aquidneckcommunitytable.org)

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

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 several service days with the full TerraCorps cohort. 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 \$18,500 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$740 (pre-tax) per 25 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 \$6,495 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See <http://www.americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-ameri-corps-education-award> 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**

To apply for this position and to learn more about other TerraCorps Service Member opportunities, please visit the following page on the TerraCorps website at <https://terracorps.org/member-position-listing/>.

**Note:** A complete Member application includes a resume and two professional or academic references that you will upload as part of your application.

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 in May 2022. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by mid-July, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps please email [spollock@terracorps.org](mailto:spollock@terracorps.org).

### **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: <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.](#)

TerraCorps is a grant-funded program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the AmeriCorps federal agency. TerraCorps is also supported in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance in MA and ServeRI in Rhode Island.