



## Now Recruiting for Environmental Educator



**Position Title:** Environmental Educator (AmeriCorps member)

**PCEI AmeriCorps program:** The Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) provides leadership and professional experiences to AmeriCorps members by partnering with local organizations that address critical needs in the areas of Sustainable Community Planning and Conservation. For more information, visit <http://www.pcei.org/ameriCorps/>

**Project Sponsor:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686, <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat>, 208-467-9278.

### **Position Summary:**

The Environmental Educator AmeriCorps member will work with Refuge staff and volunteers to develop and expand environmental education (EE) and interpretive opportunities that foster understanding of and responsibility for Deer Flat NWR and other local ecosystems. Projects will include:

- Conducting on- and off-site EE programs for pre-K-12 students and preschool through senior citizen community groups, including on-site field trips, classroom programs, and guided nature explorations with preschoolers.
- Coordinating on- and off-site interpretive programs for community groups and the general public, including special events like Creepy Critter Encounters and Get Outdoors Festival.
- Designing and troubleshooting lesson plans that support state educational standards and incorporate citizen science and service learning projects.
- Developing and sustaining partnership(s) with local schools and/or community organizations to encourage area youth to connect with nature through on- and off-site outdoor activities.
- Helping coordinate large-scale events working closely with colleagues and community partners.
- Increasing awareness of Refuge EE programs through on-site and community outreach.
- Recruiting, training, and facilitating volunteers to help with EE programs.

One or two full time positions for 11 months between approximately September 2019 and July 2020.

### **Member Benefits include:**

- A taxable, monthly living allowance (\$13,992 paid over the term of service).
- Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members receive an education award of \$6,095.00 for a full-time position. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans or for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
- Free, lakeshore housing available on the Refuge.
- Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable.)
- Basic medical insurance for those who qualify.
- Childcare allowance for those who qualify.
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
- Qualified individuals with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. We provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals and conduct all activities in full accessible settings.
- Access to government vehicle for member service activities.
- Funding available for some position-related training.

### **Application Instructions:**

Please submit complete application by **July 3, 2019**. See next page for more information.

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## **Essential Functions**

- Conduct on- and off-site EE programs for pre-K-12 students and community groups.
- Develop new programs to support partner curriculum requirements
- Develop new and maintain existing partnerships to build EE program capacity.
- Coordinate on-site interpretive programs for community groups and the general public.
- Increase awareness of Refuge EE and volunteer programs through community outreach.
- Recruit, train, and facilitate volunteers to help with EE and conservation programs
- Complete and submit all necessary PCEI AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Attend and complete all PCEI AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings and national service days.
- Wear PCEI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

## **Member Qualifications:**

- A background in environmental education, wildlife biology, natural resources, or a related field. A bachelor's degree is a plus, but not required.
- Teaching experience.
- Prefer experience working with the general public and children in indoor and outdoor settings.
- Prefer familiarity with the natural history of southwest Idaho.
- Prefer experience developing and conducting EE and interpretive programs.
- Prefer experience correlating EE programs with national and state educational standards.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent organizational and computer skills.
- A self-motivated, creative, and resourceful individual to work with diverse groups of people.
- Ability to speak Spanish is a plus.

## **Position Requirements:**

- Work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.
- Ability to work in an office setting.
- Valid driver's license and good driving record. Drive government vehicle as required for position.
- Must be at least 17 years of age at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Must possess high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving award.
- Ability to commit to the full term of service.
- Must successfully pass fingerprint criminal history background checks through PCEI and Refuge.
- AmeriCorps members can enroll in multiple terms of service that add up to the value of two full-time education awards. You can serve additional terms but will not receive another education award.
- Desire to serve with people to promote environmental stewardship and an ethic of service.
- A commitment to the goals of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations, such as project partner(s), colleagues, community volunteers, students, and the general public.
- A cooperative manner and the ability to serve as part of a team.
- Ability to work independently or on a team as needed.
- A willingness to ask questions for clarification and job completion.
- Regular and reliable attendance and dependability.

## **Application Instructions:**

Please submit complete application by **July 3, 2019**. We will begin reviewing applications on July 5. Include: 1) Cover letter, 2) Resume, 3) Contact information for three professional references, and 4) Narrative responses to these questions: a) Describe experiences that demonstrate your knowledge of and skill in planning and implementing activities to engage youth directly with nature through environmental education and interpretive programs and b) Describe experiences that demonstrate your skill in communicating complex information and ideas (orally and in writing) to individuals and groups with varying levels of education and diverse backgrounds. Submit to [susan\\_kain@fws.gov](mailto:susan_kain@fws.gov) or Susan Kain, Deer Flat NWR, 13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686. Contact Susan Kain (208-467-9278) for more information.