

Sponsor Applicant Fact Sheet

WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

AmeriCorps is a National Service Program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Grants are awarded to organizations to assist these groups in recruiting, training and placing AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs.

WHAT IS AN AMERICORPS SPONSOR?

An AmeriCorps Sponsor is a non-profit organization, a school or a government agency that hosts an AmeriCorps member to complete an 11-month service project. (In some cases, the term is part-time or approximately 5 ½ months.) The project will expand the capacity of the Sponsor agency and address an unmet environmental community need. The sponsor site will not only provide a meaningful service experience, but will also foster professional development for the member.

An Ideal Sponsor

- Creates a well-defined project with measurable goals and outcomes.
- Organizes adequate member workspace, resources and training
- Provides ongoing mentoring and supervision

WHAT IS AN AMERICORPS MEMBER?

AmeriCorps Members are 17 years of age and older and come from varying social, cultural, economic and educational backgrounds. Members receive a monthly living allowance and benefits. PCEI members are passionate about environmental issues.

PALOUSE-CLEARWATER ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE

PCEI's mission is to increase citizen involvement in decisions that affect our region's environment. Through community organizing and education, PCEI assists members of our communities in making environmentally sound and economically viable decisions that promote a sustainable future.

PALOUSE-CLEARWATER ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The PCEI AmeriCorps program places AmeriCorps members in organizations whose goal is to educate and engage community in positive and beneficial environmentally focused practices, in order to protect Idaho's natural resources and maintain our safety and quality of life.

Community members will be educated in environmental principles through a variety of formal and informal presentations and classes. Members will also engage community members in hands-on, on-the-ground, purposeful activities, which will contribute to the protection and enhancement of regional lands and waterways, providing direct experience and leading to continued involvement and ongoing positive action.

The projects our AmeriCorps members will complete should be designed to 1) provide education and direct experience so that residents of all ages will gain the knowledge to make informed decisions addressing critical environmental issues in a real-world context and 2) provide opportunity for members and community to complete restoration activities that lead to the protection and enhancement of our lands and waterways.

Previous project activities have included:

- Completing community level projects related to sustainable community planning and/or conservation

efforts. This work will help citizens and communities throughout Idaho to promote sustainable development and land use planning, reducing their impact on the environment.

- Hands-on restoration projects in watersheds, wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitat.
- Classroom and other environmental education and outreach.
- Leveraging and educating volunteers who will be engaged in various projects to maximize the work accomplished, establish a stewardship ethic among residents.

PCEI ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Recruit, interview and select qualified members in partnership with the sponsor
- Facilitate pre-service orientation for members and supervisors and monthly trainings in personal and professional development
- Manage member payroll, benefits and fiscal reporting
- Ongoing support via team meetings, site visits, evaluations

OVERVIEW

- *Costs and Commitments*
 - \$8,400.00 Cash Match contribution for full-time member
 - In-kind contribution (i.e. office space, supplies, housing (if provided), vehicle use, etc) of \$4,200.00 for full-time member
 - An experienced and committed supervisor
 - A work space designated for the AmeriCorps member
- *Quality of Project*
 - Does your project meet an environmental need as well as have a community involvement component?
 - Does your project involve environmental education for community members?
and/or
 - Does your project involve hands-on restoration activities?
 - Will your project engage local volunteers?
- *Organizational Capacity_*
 - Is your organization a public school, nonprofit or government agency?
 - Is your organization based in the State of Idaho?
 - Who will be the supervisor? Do they have the time, ability and project expertise to effectively mentor and supervise a member?
 - Do you have appropriate workspace and resources for the member to carry out the project?
- *Evaluation*
 - How will you determine if your placement is successful? We will ask you to address the strategies by which your members will succeed in achieving identified outcomes.
- *Sustainability*
 - What is your long-term plan or vision for the project?
 - Who will take on the project after AmeriCorps support has ended?
- *Staff Displacement*
 - AmeriCorps members will not displace or replace staff within your organization.