



## 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).

Audubon Society of Rhode Island 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 the Audubon Society of Rhode Island**

#### **Audubon Society of Rhode Island**

12 Sanderson Rd.  
Smithfield, RI 02917  
[www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org)

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island (Audubon-RI) was founded in 1897 and is not affiliated with National Audubon. The mission of Audubon-RI is the protection of birds, other wildlife and their habitat through conservation, education and advocacy for the benefit of people and other living things. Audubon-RI protects nearly 9,500 acres of habitat consisting of significant woodlands, wetlands, coastal marshes and grassland habitat in Rhode Island for the benefit of the environment, the economy, and future generations. We partner with community groups and schools to ensure that everyone has access to the outdoors and meaningful experiences in nature. Audubon also provides environmental education programs for every school district in the state and advocates for sound environmental policy.

**Land Stewardship Coordinators** 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. Audubon Society of RI has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Land Stewardship Coordinator:

- 1) Enhance and expand the Volunteer Steward Program by coordinating trainings, outings, and service days.... especially the development and training of a volunteer group to implement annual monitoring of all Audubon properties in compliance with Land Trust Alliance National Standards and Practices.
- 2) Audubon-RI and RI Land Trust Council are working together to establish and implement sound monitoring systems for the properties and conservation easements that they protect. As part of this project, the Audubon and Council, in cooperation with the University of Rhode Island Environmental Data Center (URI-EDC), is developing a monitoring application that uses Esri ArcGIS software. The monitoring tool allows Rhode Island land trust leaders to view maps of their location, land trust boundaries, and satellite imagery on their phone or tablet, as well as record points in the field as part of their monitoring.
- 3) The TerraCorps member will work with the RI Land Trust Council and URI EDC boundaries of properties and conservation easements that they protect into ArcGIS. They will train and coach Volunteers in using the ArcGIS app and property monitoring. Duties related to the project include:
  - 4) Carrying-out GIS work in support of the app including updating property boundaries of Audubon lands uploading geospatial data onto ArcGIS Online account for Audubon staff and volunteers to utilize in app, and curating geospatial data on ArcGIS Online through keeping metadata up to date.
  - 5) Developing GIS resources for those Audubon properties that still lack property boundary datasets.
  - 6) Training Audubon volunteers on how to use the App for monitoring the conservation properties.
  - 7) Learning best practices in property monitoring according to Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices and training volunteers in implementing them through person-to-person site visits and workshops.

- 8) Working with Audubon's Senior Director of Conservation to research and develop a strategy to create a statewide volunteer network database. The vision for this program will be to have a pool of volunteers Audubon-RI can call on as stewardship projects arise. The TerraCorps member will not only help recruit volunteers, but also have the opportunity to help on these projects and share the work of the Audubon as opportunities arise.
- 9) Help Audubon Society of Rhode Island with required monitoring for protected properties in compliance with LTA Standards and Practices.

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 programs Microsoft Office 365. GIS.
- Training and experience pertinent to the Land Stewardship Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Orienteering, ability to hike long distances for hours in variable weather conditions.
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- Able to be active outside in a range of weather conditions, and navigate uneven terrain
- Experience giving presentations and/or trainings to a diverse audience
- Ability to write detailed technical reports
- Knowledge and direct experience with ArcGIS mapping software
- Ability to navigate independently in the field utilizing map, compass, and GPS units
- Ability to read and interpret various maps, such as surveys, aerial photos, and USGS topo's
- Experience with natural systems and identifying plant and wildlife species

For questions about Audubon's service positions, contact Scott Ruhren, Senior Director of Conservation [sruhren@asri.org](mailto:sruhren@asri.org)

## **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** We seek 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](http://terracorps.org).

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 men and women 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). TerraCorps is also supported in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance in MA.