

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPECIALIST

AgCorps AmeriCorps Member Position Description

AgCorps Mission:



To serve Montana communities by providing Ag literacy and environmental stewardship education to create resilient, healthy, and engaged communities under the Big Sky.



Location	279 Veteran Drive, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Supervisor Information	Mara Schradle, Director of Programs
Term of Service	This is a full-time 1700hr position. Term dates are January- November. Members are expected to serve 40 hours/week. Typical working times are Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM.

About AmeriCorps:

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. AmeriCorps continuously tackles the nation's most pressing challenges by getting things done for America.

Purpose:

AgCorps is a state AmeriCorps program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture. AgCorps aims to improve the capacity of partner organizations to meet their mission, grow collaborations, provide effective programming, and create resilient, healthy, safe, and engaged communities in Montana. This program is also designed to serve rural and underfunded school districts in Montana that require more accessibility to Ag literacy materials.

Location:

This position will be primarily located in Columbia Falls but will also participate in activities around Flathead County. Columbia Falls is a city in northwestern Montana with a population of around 6,000 people. There are endless opportunities for outdoor adventures nearby with Glacier National Park only a 30-minute drive away and ample mountains, rivers, and lakes within walking, biking, and driving distance.

Service Position Summary:

The mission of Land to Hand is to build a strong community food system that fosters socially just ways of accessing food. Our work is focused on Food Access and Education. Access to healthy, local food is vital for all members of our community. Our Food for All programs help alleviate the stress of affording fresh, local food and give community members the opportunity to control their food choices.

Education is a way of ensuring that all people in our community know how to grow, prepare, and enjoy food. We want to ensure that our community has access to the knowledge and resources to live resilient lives. Our education programs empower all kids and adults to be a part of growing the next generation of cooks, gardeners, farmers, ranchers, seed savers, and eaters.

Land to Hand is committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where people of all backgrounds and experiences are respected and welcome. We strive to be a part of a welcoming culture where each individual is valued. Our community is enriched when there is access and opportunity for all. We are committed to creating programs, workplace culture, physical spaces, and policies that allow for the full engagement of community members, program participants, volunteers, board of directors, donors, and staff. We acknowledge that the needs of our community are varied, ever-changing, and require our continued attention. We want all people in our community to have a seat at the table.

This position will be primarily focused on our Farm to School education program which includes hands-on gardening, cooking, and nutrition lessons, the afterschool Wildcat Garden Club, summer camp, and Harvest of the Month taste tests. We work all over Flathead County doing food access and education work, particularly food systems lessons and seed saving education. Our school-based farm to school and garden education takes place predominantly in the Columbia Falls school district which is a rural community and serves multiple small towns including Martin City, Hungry Horse, and Coram.

This position will be in the office approximately 30% of the time and serving with schools or in the garden 70% of the time.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Assist with Farm to School programming in the Wildcat Garden and in classrooms
- Co-lead junior high after-school Wildcat Garden Club
- Lead food systems lessons implementation to 5th grade classrooms in Flathead County
- Enhance 6th grade garden & nutrition curriculum
- Enhance Kindergarten - 8th grade standards-based garden curriculum
- Develop and lead summer educational programming
- Plan and implement educational Harvest of the Month cooking lessons and taste tests
- Support annual educational and community event, Free the Seeds
- Adhere to program policies and procedures
- Demonstrate the ability to balance service activities
- Demonstrate professional behavior and use of appropriate language
- Demonstrate the ability to be flexible and serve cooperatively
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and resolve conflicts
- Attendance to mandatory trainings (Orientation, Symposium, mid-service training and end of service training)
- Participation in evaluation and reporting (monthly reporting, bi-weekly timesheet submission and monthly check-in calls)

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Interest, desire, and ability to work with children ages 4 - 18
- Basic gardening, cooking, and agricultural skills a plus
- Experience and interest in education a plus

The Montana AgCorps Program, under the Montana Department of Agriculture, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other discrimination not based on merit or qualifications.

- Interest in agriculture, food systems, food security, nutrition, cooking and/or community health
- Willingness to work outdoors in all conditions
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team
- Valid driver's license

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive a living allowance to cover basic expenses while serving
- Upon successful completion of service, members receive an education award based on position length
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A monthly housing allowance if eligible (must be renting or have a mortgage payment)
- Other benefits include being part of an incredible community, being surrounded by professionals in multiple fields, and job shadowing opportunities
- AmeriCorps alumni benefits include access to nationwide alumni network, many career resources, access to AmeriCorps alumni emails and updates

AmeriCorps Service Minimum Requirements:

- Must be 18+ at the beginning of service (17+ requires parental consent)
- High school graduate, GED recipient, working towards obtaining a high school diploma/ GED
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria

For more information, please Contact:

Amanda Coyle: AgCorps Program Coordinator
(406) 444-7819
Amanda.Coyle@mt.gov

To Apply

Visit <https://my.americorps.gov>

- * All positions are contingent upon a successful background check and continued CNCS grant funding.
- * Reasonable accommodations can be made for interviews and if selected, service activities.