

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	3040 Continental Drive Butte, MT 59702
Supervisor Information	Molly Kirkham, Harvest of the Month
Term of Service	This is a full-time 1700hr position. Term dates are January- November 2025. 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. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

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:

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is headquartered in Butte, Montana, with staff located across the U.S. NCAT's deep portfolio of sustainable agriculture and energy projects spans every region of the country. The geographic diversity of our work, and trusted expertise of our staff in each of these regions, allow NCAT to provide relevant information, individualized technical assistance, and in-depth resources to support sustainable agriculture and accessible energy solutions nationwide.

Butte is the fifth largest city in Montana and sits in between a few of the state's largest cities: Missoula, Bozeman, and Helena. The city has great opportunities to learn about its history, as well as many restaurants, shops, sporting events, concerts, and community gatherings. Butte is also surrounded by access to recreation such as skiing, hiking, fishing, floating, biking, and climbing.

Service Position Summary:

The Montana Harvest of the Month (HOM) program showcases Montana-grown and raised food in Montana schools, institutions, organizations, and businesses. Each month, participating sites focus on promoting one locally grown item by displaying HOM posters and materials, serving it in snacks or meals, offering it for purchase, or doing educational lessons and activities. The two primary goals of this program are to promote local, healthy foods to Montanans and to support Montana farmers, ranchers, and food businesses. Participating sites receive a free packet of materials including posters, handouts, recipes, and other promotional materials, as well as guides, additional resources, and training. There are approximately 80 schools, 50 early care and education sites, 20 businesses and organizations, and 10 producers currently participating in HOM throughout the state of Montana.

NCAT's Small-Scale Intensive Farm Training program (SIFT) operates a high-altitude urban demonstration farm in Butte, Montana, that is focused on production of food for the good of the community. The farm operates a food donation program to the Butte Food Bank and a waste food collection service for composting purposes on the SIFT site. In addition, the SIFT hosts educational programs, and organizations as part of their summer camp program.

The AmeriCorps member will implement HOM and SIFT activities throughout Butte. With the below service activities, the member will serve the Butte community by increasing knowledge, consumption, and access to Montana grown and raised foods. The member will have the opportunity to deliver hands on education in agriculture and food production, through planned field trips to the SIFT farm and other local producers, to learn skills related to sustainable food production techniques, the Butte growing season, crops suitable for the climate, healthy soils, soil nutrition and much more.

This position will be in the field and on the road about 70% of the time (20% HOM and 50% SIFT). The remaining 30% will be conducted in a typical office environment updating social media content on SIFT initiatives for building sustainable food communities and HOM content creation. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities will be provided.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Partner with current HOM sites to assist with their HOM activities
- Make new connections with organizations, schools, early care/ education providers, etc.
- Plan and conduct taste tests, educational activities, and cooking and gardening lessons
- Assist with producer visits and field trips to SIFT
- Assist sites with funding for HOM activities
- Increase outreach and education with local organizations, schools, and non-profits
- Attend community events to increase awareness of HOM
- Deliver hands on and education focused on food production, the climate, healthy soils, and soil nutrition
- Observe Grow Montana activities and assist with Grow Montana's social media content
- 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:

- Valid driver's license
- Comfortable leading educational activities, cooking and gardening lessons, and making connections with community members of all ages
- Interest in agriculture, food systems, and agricultural education
- Willing to work in an outdoor environment in all weather conditions.
- Knowledge of local food system issues
- Ability to lift 50 lbs. and be willing to learn how to use semi-large machinery

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive a living allowance of \$21,000 to cover basic expenses while serving
- Upon successful completion of service, members receive a \$7,395 education award
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A \$300/month housing stipend if eligible
- 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 & continued CNCS grant funding