

COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE EDUCATOR

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	2385 Flynn Ln, Missoula, MT 59808 1657 River Rd., Missoula, MT 59801
Supervisor Information	Jason Mandala, Garden City Harvest, Farm to School Director & Dr. Molly Blakely, Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary
Term of Service	Terms of Service will be from January to 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:

Nestled in the Northern Rockies of Montana, surrounded by seven wilderness areas and at the confluence of three rivers, Missoula is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. You can kayak, raft or tube through downtown or take a relaxing hike in 60,000 acres of wilderness. Missoula is known for its blue-ribbon trout fishing (made famous by A River Runs Through It) and spectacular natural beauty. The outdoor recreational opportunities are limitless.

Garden City Harvest plants seeds and grows together to create a healthy community at over 20 sites throughout Missoula, including neighborhood farms, school gardens, and community gardens. The organization provides the community with educational opportunities to learn about sustainable

agriculture as well as opportunities to participate directly in agriculture as a community gardener, volunteer, CSA farm share member, or more at one of their many sites. Additionally, each year Garden City Harvest donates thousands of pounds of locally grown food to various hunger agencies in Missoula County.

Hellgate Elementary School District is located in Missoula, Montana. The district serves approximately 1,500 students in pre-K through 8th grade across four buildings on a 43-acre campus. Recently, the district added a school garden, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities that promote healthy eating, environmental stewardship, and cross-curricular connections. This addition enhances the school's mission to create engaging, real-world experiences that support student growth and well-being.

Service Position Summary:

Missoula is a city of about 80,000 people that has rapidly grown in the past 5-10 years. This growth has increased the disconnect between many residents and Montana's number one industry, agriculture. Garden City Harvest's goal is to decrease that disconnect through providing community members with opportunities to engage in agriculture through farming and gardening, as well as educational programming.

As the AgCorps member for this shared position between Hellgate Elementary and Garden City Harvest, your focus will be on Farm to School educational endeavors. The main goal of the Farm to School programming is to educate children, mainly K-8th grade, about food, farming, gardening, and nutrition in an effort to develop them into empowered adults that are knowledgeable about our food systems. This occurs through in class lessons, educational farm field trips, and school garden lessons.

This shared position will be splitting time working at Hellgate Elementary School (K-8th) and in their school garden as well as at Garden City Harvest farms and school gardens throughout Missoula.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Lead educational field trips for elementary school classrooms at the PEAS Farm spring, summer, and fall
- Teach lessons in school gardens in the spring and fall
- Help maintain school gardens throughout the growing season
- 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:

- Ability to be on your feet for long periods of time

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.

- Ability to lift 50lbs
- Experience teaching youth is a plus
- Experience farming or gardening is a plus
- Experience driving a stick shift is a plus
- Knowledge of sustainable food systems is a plus
- 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 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
- 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
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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.