

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	302 North Roberts St. Helena, MT 59601
Supervisor Information	Andy Fjeth, Marketing Bureau Chief, AFjeseth@mt.gov
Term of Service	This is a full-time 1700hr position. Term dates are January- November 2024. 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. The AgCorps program strives to deliver the best possible resources and values integrity, leadership, and trust in its members and host sites.

Location:

The Montana Department of Agriculture is a state department that operates more than 30 programs across the state. Some of those programs and topics include Adopt-A-Trailhead, Farmer's Market, Beekeeping, Noxious Weeds and Pest Management. The three main divisions of the department are the Agricultural Development Division, the Agricultural Sciences Division, and the Central Services Division. For more information on the department, visit www.agr.mt.gov.

With a population of a little over 33,000, Helena is a beautiful capital city with a small-town feel. Montana has something to offer everyone, whether you are into biking, boating, skiing or just exploring the outdoors. There are countless activities to enjoy right outside your door including the state's oldest

farmer's market, tours of the famous mansion district and multiple festivals throughout the year. Helena is surrounded by several mountain ranges including the Big Belts, Elkhorns the Boulders, and numerous rivers and streams including the Blue Ribbon section of the Missouri River.

Service Position Summary:

Ag in the classroom program provides schools and communities with opportunities to learn about agriculture in a fun and effective way. It seeks to instill appreciation for local agriculture and food production. Some students today may not realize where their food, fiber products, and alternative energy originate. Ag in the Classroom is working to provide educational opportunities to discover agriculture's many benefits for today and tomorrow. Ag in the Classroom will provide materials for K-12 schools around the state. Materials will educate students on agriculture in Montana and the most effective way to understand/appreciate food production. Lessons highlight food procurement, education, and school garden creation. Some examples of Ag in the Classroom programs include Book Buddies, Beef Ed in Schools, and the Lunch & Learn program.

Farm to School will give school aged children firsthand experience on where their food comes from. In addition to knowing more about how food is grown and sourced, students will be able to take part in learning how to support local economies and contributing to, not only theirs, but surrounding communities that may also be affected by local agriculture. This program helps to connect local producers to schools in the community. The purpose of these two service projects relates to the overall community need of Agricultural Literacy throughout the counties in the state of Montana.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Develop 5 new projects and integrate them with other activities already existing in the state
- Work directly with the MAITC (Mt Ag in the Classroom) board and local program leaders
- Work with educators to develop new Ag in the Classroom programs and lessons
- Serve with the State Farm to School team to enhance F2S offerings throughout the state
- Help create and implement Harvest of the Month programs
- Travel to schools to assist with farm to school education
- Help with green houses, school gardens and other school projects
- Help organize and produce the F2S conference for school partners and educators

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Valid driver's license
- Public speaking and basic writing skills
- Knowledge of design and editing software (i.e., Canva, Adobe, etc.)
- Ability to interact with community members of all demographics
- Understanding or willingness to learn how agriculture plays an important role in Montana

Service Conditions:

This position will be in the field and on the road about 50% of the time. The remaining 50% will be conducted in a typical office environment. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities will be provided.

Orientation and Training (Mandatory):

- Orientation is a three-day long event. We will cover multiple topics including expectations, prohibited activities, program benefits, timesheets, and reporting
- Montana Symposium is held in March every year. This is an opportunity to meet other AmeriCorps members in the state and to develop your understanding of AmeriCorps
- Mid-Term Training will be a two to three-day long training held in June. This will be a time to reflect on your service and connect with other members
- End of Service is an event focused on concluding your service. There will be a civic reflection and resources to prepare you for life after AmeriCorps

Evaluation and Reporting:

- Members will be required to complete a monthly report focused on capacity and environmental knowledge data from program participants and community members
- There will be a mid-service evaluation and an end of service evaluation
- Supervisors are encouraged to meet with their member on a weekly basis at minimum

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 \$7,895 education award
- While serving, members may qualify for student loan forbearance
- Healthcare/ childcare services are available while serving
- A \$200/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
- 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

* All positions are contingent upon continued CNCS grant funding

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.