

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	Jasmine Chaffee, Noxious Weed Coordinator
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 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:

Noxious Weed programs across the state are run by county weed districts and extension agents but most lack the capacity to have a full-time education and outreach coordinator. There has been several decades of material created for noxious weed education, but there is a need to disseminate it into the community and provide resources for those conducting noxious weed education locally. Education and outreach will support local groups and counties in their education efforts providing a key pillar for the department's noxious weed programs.

The service member will spend their term performing the below service activities. The creation and dissemination of noxious weed educational materials will raise awareness of the threat of noxious weeds as well as the programs available to help identify and control weeds. The member will serve across the state working with counties to implement education programs for land managers and schools. They will serve as an environmental steward by raising awareness of one of the country's most pressing environmental issues.

During the school year this position will be on the road or in the classroom 80% of the time. The remaining 20% will be in a typical office environment. When school is not in session, the member will assist the mapping and monitoring member. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities will be provided.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Conduct E&O for noxious weeds across the state
- maintain social media, table events, teach noxious weed curricula in schools
- build educational activities for curricula, create E&O materials w/ MDA E&O Specialist
- participate in E&O events
- support AATM & Monitoring/Mapping during the summer months
- 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:

- Public speaking
- Basic writing
- Provide educational materials to community/stakeholders
- 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

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 or GED during your term or service
- 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
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To Apply

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

* All positions are contingent upon a successful background check and continued CNCS grant funding