

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	Brett Heitshusen, Sustainability Program Manager
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 Montana. 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:

With the support of the Agricultural Container Recycling Council (ACRC), the Pesticide Container Recycling Program services 100+ container collection sites across the state. A mobile grinding unit, a generator and granulator set up on a 40ft flatbed trailer, visits each location multiple times per year to grind containers into 1300lb super bags. The bags of regrind are shipped to plastic product companies that manufacture pallets and other non-potable recycled products. The AgCorps member will assist with the collection and grinding of the pesticide containers providing a free recycling service to the agricultural industry and diverting agricultural waste from landfills and burn piles. While at the sites, the member will provide education regarding the proper disposal of pesticide containers and the environmental impact of improper disposal. During the winter/spring, the member will assist university researchers and extension agents to develop educational posters and slideshows on environmental transport and fate of pesticides.

The Groundwater Protection Program (GWPP) monitors groundwater for agricultural chemicals at wells located in agricultural settings, in fields and near farms. The GWPP also maintains weather stations at most of our groundwater monitoring locations. Meteorological data, soil moisture, and water table level data are remotely transmitted to their respective data bases and used for drought designation and climate sensitivity models in Montana. The member will visit groundwater monitoring wells assisting with groundwater sample collection and weather station construction, sensor maintenance or replacement, and groundwater protection education to the public. The groundwater monitoring results provide feedback to pesticide applicators on the environmental impact and risks of pesticide applications in local areas, as well as demonstrate the effective and responsible use of pesticides in the Agricultural Industry.

January to March will be working in a typical office environment. March to November will be on the road about 90% of the time. Transportation or mileage reimbursement for program activities will be provided.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Comfort speaking to stakeholders about proper container recycling
- Creation of educational materials
- Pesticide Container Recycling and groundwater sample collection
- Education and outreach regarding pesticide container recycling and groundwater protection
- MESONET weather station maintenance
- 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:

- Comfortable driving a pickup and pulling a trailer.
- Familiar with environmental sample collection
- Record keeping
- Valid driver's license
- comfortable with long amounts of time on the road and being outdoors in variable weather

- able to work with different types of PPE (gloves, Tyvek suits, hearing protection)
- ability to bend, crouch, dig, and climb on and off trailers and ladders.

AmeriCorps Program Benefits:

- Members receive \$21,000 over the 10 months 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
- A \$300/month housing stipend if eligible
- Healthcare and Childcare assistance is available
- 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 and CNCS grant funding