

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	2475 Broadway Ave Helena, MT 59601
Supervisor Information	Kim Lloyd, Harvest of the Month, kblloyd@sphealth.org
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:

St. Peter's Health, based in Helena, is a nonprofit healthcare system providing services to an estimated 97,000 residents from a five-county area. Our mission is to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of the people and communities we serve.

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:

Education and access to healthy foods are critical to good health. The Montana Harvest of the Month (HOM) Program showcases Montana grown foods in Montana communities to promote these two concepts among others. Free resources for early childhood, healthcare centers, businesses, and K-12 are provided by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and Montana State University (MSU). St. Peter's Health has invested in connecting groups in our community to opportunities for nutrition education and access to local, healthy foods through the Montana Harvest of the Month program. We participate in many activities including coordinating lessons for early childhood and elementary classrooms, lead educational booths at the local farmers markets, share food and recipes featuring locally grown foods available at Helena Food Share.

The Zero to Five HOM service member will focus specifically on establishing sustainable HOM programming in Early Childhood classrooms across our service area. St. Peter's Health uses HOM as an upstream approach to healthcare. Increasing access to healthy, nutritious foods now will help reduce the chance of chronic disease later in life. The service member will initially work with Head Start (school readiness for low-income families) and Pete's Place (St. Peter's Health employee daycare) classrooms to expand opportunities for nutrition and agriculture education.

Essential Functions and responsibilities:

- Recruit classrooms from Pete's Place and Head Start to participate in monthly Harvest of the Month lessons and taste tests
- Teach monthly Harvest of the Month lessons in Helena
- Provide Harvest of the Month programming at community outreach events specific to the Zero-Five population
- Aid in the planning, planting, and harvesting of garden space and summer garden programming specific to Zero-Five population
- Assist with community Farmers' Market outreach booths once a month
- Develop a sustainable plan to continue Harvest of the Month lessons for next school year
- Assist with the Kids Hunger Coalition activities

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:

- Ability to drive and Valid Driver's License
- public speaking and communication
- direct education experience is a plus
- Understanding or willingness to learn about gardening in Montana

Service Conditions:

This position will be in the classroom 50% of the time, gardening 30% of the time and in the office 20% of the time. Many of the activities require standing, sitting on the ground, leading classroom activities, kneeling, lifting heavy objects, using gardening tools and walking on uneven ground. 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.