



AmeriCorps



Program Year 24

2023-2024 Position Description

The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program (NJWAP) is an environmental stewardship-oriented AmeriCorps program designed to raise awareness about water quality. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has hosted NJWAP since 2000, and while the Program has evolved over the last 23 years, its main goals have remained the same: promote watershed stewardship through education and direct community involvement and monitor the health of our waterways through conducting stream assessments.

Twenty (20) Watershed Ambassadors serve from partner host agency locations, with one located in each of New Jersey's Watershed Management Areas (WMAs). From Sussex to Cape May counties, Ambassadors provide direct service to their local communities. NJWAP serves with all sectors of society to improve the quality of New Jersey's waterways, nurturing community-based environmental activities and empowering residents to make responsible and informed decisions regarding their watershed by: **Educating** the public on watershed science and encouraging them to get involved in local stewardship actions; Implementing community green infrastructure and **stewardship** projects through partnering with local organizations and community volunteers; and Conducting habitat and biological assessments following DEP monitoring protocol to monitor the health of their WMA's **streams**.

Throughout the Program, Ambassadors grow professionally and interpersonally. Training in highly sought-after skills in the environmental field is provided, including GIS (NJ Geoweb and AGO applications), fieldwork experience, grant writing, project management, and science communication. Ambassadors exit the program prepared to further their career in the environmental field. A driver's license and reliable vehicle for field assignments are required. Interested applicants for the 2023-2024 program year should apply via the My AmeriCorps portal by July 20, 2023, indicating at least two preferred WMAs. Please note: Applications are evaluated as they are received. Enrollment is contingent on the DEP receiving the federal grant award.

Eligibility to Serve with the NJWAP:

- Must have a bachelor's degree or higher
- Desire to serve your community
- A valid driver's license, dependable car for service assignment travel
- Must be a U.S Citizen or a permanent resident alien (proof of documentation needed)
- Must commit to a 1700 hr. term (40 hrs. per week, to be completed by Mid-July 2024)

Ambassador Duties: Over the course of the 1700-hour term of service (September- July), Ambassadors will perform the following Environmental Stewardship services for their watershed communities:

Educational Presentations and Trainings (Subject to Change per grant year)

- **50 presentations**
- **2 Environmental Stewardship Trainings** ex: teaching a group of volunteers how to conduct stream assessments.

Partnership Projects

- Minimum of **4 Partnership Projects** ex: rain garden installations, rain barrel building workshops, native species plantings, other green based restoration techniques.
- **2 cleanups** ex. reduce marine debris and/or single-use plastics.
- **1 Host Agency Project**

Stream Monitoring

- **35 biological and visual assessments** conducted to monitor local freshwater streams.
- Ambassadors will enter assessment data into DEP GIS Database.

Member Development/Community Outreach

- Attend 3 Meetings to learn about local environmental concerns, and partner with community groups to address them.
- Conduct 1 Career/Profession of Interest Interview
- Conduct 1 Elected or Appointed Official interview

Program Benefits: Education award upon successful completion of service, health coverage provided, and stipend. The living stipend up to \$25,000 distributed bi-monthly, over the 10-month term of service. Receive a Segal education award of up to \$6,895 upon completion of 1700 hrs. Childcare assistance if eligible. <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps/segal-amicorps-education-award>

Terms: Permits working at another job during off hours, reliable car required for travel to and from service assignments, permits attendance at school during off hours, AmeriCorps apparel provided and required to be worn during service outreach events. 10 teleservice hours per week are permitted, subject to change based on the approval of AmeriCorps.

Service Areas: Community Outreach, Environment, Education

Skills: Teamwork, Environment, General Skills, Computers/Technology, Community Organization, Leadership, Writing/Editing, Teaching/Tutoring, Public Speaking, Event Planning, Time Management.

For more information regarding this position description or other program related information, please email Program Manager, Amanda.Baksa@dep.nj.gov