



2020-2021 Position Description

The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program (NJWAP) is an environmental stewardship-oriented AmeriCorps program designed to raise awareness about water concerns. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has hosted NJWAP since 2000, and while the Program has evolved over the last 20 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, Members grow professionally and interpersonally. Extensive training in highly sought-after skills in the environmental field is provided, including ArcGIS, fieldwork experience, grant writing, project management, and science communication. Members exit 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 2020-2021 Program should apply via the My AmeriCorps portal by Aug. 14, 2020, including a statement in your application with an indication of your 2 preferred WMAs. Please note: Applications are evaluated as they are received. Admission contingent on the DEP receiving the 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 provide required documentation of permanent residence
- Must commit to a 1700 hr. term (40 hrs. per week, to be completed by Mid-July)

Member Duties: Over the course of this 1700-hour term of service (Sept. 2020 – Jul. 2021), Members 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** that have an educational or hands on component that allows volunteers to leave able to implement a best management practice (BMP)

Partnership Projects

- Minimum of **4 Partnership Projects** geared towards implementing BMPs to manage storm water runoff (ex: rain garden installations, rain barrel building workshops, native species plantings, other green based restoration techniques)
- **2 cleanups** with a focus on reducing marine debris and single-use plastics
- **1 Host Agency Project** mutually chosen to best suit the Member's interests and the Host Agency's needs

Stream Monitoring

- **35 biological and visual assessments** conducted to monitor local freshwater streams.
- Members will enter assessment data into DEP ArcGIS 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 with professional of choice
- Conduct 1 Elected or Appointed Official interview with official of choice

Program Benefits: Childcare assistance if eligible, Education award upon successful completion of service, Health Coverage, Stipend. Living Stipend of \$14,279 will be evenly distributed over the 10-month term of service. Segal education award of up to \$6,095 upon completion of 1700 hrs.

<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.

Service Areas: Community Outreach, Environment, Education.

Skills: Team Work, Environment, General Skills, Computers/Technology, Community Organization, Leadership, Writing/Editing, Teaching/Tutoring, Public Speaking.

Special Note related to service during COVID-19 pandemic:

Members who are applying for AmeriCorps positions during the 2020-2021 term should have an understanding that a programs design may be altered by the greater needs of the communities in which the program serves. Program staff strive to ensure that each AmeriCorps Member has a meaningful service experience in which Members will gain knowledge, and skill set that will prepare them in their future education or career aspirations.

These tasks may include but are not limited to:

- Project Feeding Hub provide support in managing the needs of local food pantries.
- Remote call center support for NJ 2-1-1 or other dial in remote call centers.

- Modifying in-person coaching around accessing higher education or other types of case management to zoom or other web/phone-based coaching.
- Coordinating with schools to help with delivery of educational content using online resources (for example, reading books that can be shared with students, conducting science experiments, virtual tours, virtual lessons) material may be recorded or presented “live”.
- Assist with local health departments/offices with coordinating public health initiatives and health/safety education efforts.
- Provide community feeding support, such as meal and food prep, planning/coordination, packing, distribution/delivery, warehousing/inventory, safety inspection, and related activities.
- Conduct wellness checks on the elderly and vulnerable populations via phone calls, text messaging, or other tasks through non-profits or other agencies performing these wellness and safety checks.
- Assist with coordinating in-kind donations related to COVID-19 community needs (food donations, supply drives, blood drives, etc.)
- Assemble hygiene and disaster preparedness kits for high-need populations such as the homeless, those living in shelters, and other low-income communities.
- Participate in or lead virtual civic reflections or other discussions related to how to serve the community during COVID-19.
- Assist with data entry/analysis for response efforts.

AmeriCorps Members will always be a layer of support when it comes to responding to New Jersey’s communities’ greatest needs. Although we are hopeful for a year of watershed related service ahead, we must be prepared to assist our communities when there is need.

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