



AmeriCorps



Program Year 22 2021-2022 Member Position Description

The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program (NJWAP) is an environmental stewardship-oriented AmeriCorps program designed to raise awareness about clean water concerns in New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has hosted NJWAP since 2000. While the program has evolved over the last 21 years, its main goals have remained the same: promote watershed stewardship through education and direct community involvement and monitor the health of New Jersey waterways through conducting stream assessments.

Each year, twenty (20) Watershed Ambassadors, selected through a competitive application and interview process, serve from local partner host agencies located in each of New Jersey's 20 Watershed Management Areas (WMAs). From Sussex to Cape May counties, Ambassadors provide service directly to their local communities. NJWAP serves with all sectors of society to improve the quality of New Jersey's waterways by providing nurturing community-based environmental activities and empowering residents to make responsible and informed decisions regarding their watersheds. AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors **Educate** the public on watershed science and encouraging them to get involved in local stewardship actions; **Implement community green infrastructure and stewardship projects through partnering with local organizations and community volunteers**; and **Conduct** habitat and biological assessments following DEP monitoring protocol to monitor the health of their WMA's streams.

NJWAP provides service members the opportunity to grow professionally and interpersonally, by offering career development and skills trainings, along with networking opportunities. Extensive training in highly sought-after skills in the environmental field is provided, including GIS, fieldwork experience, grant writing, project management, and science communication. The program prepares the members for future environmental careers.

The DEP is seeking applications for serving the 2021-2022 NJWAP program that will run from September 2021 through July 2022. Interested applicants should apply via the My AmeriCorps portal by August 13, 2021, including indication in your interest statement of at least two preferred WMAs. Applications are evaluated as they are received.

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 of the US (must provide documentation)
- Must commit to a 1700-hour term from September through July (40 hrs. per week, to be completed by Mid-July)

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



Member Duties: Over the course of this 1700-hour term of service (Sept. 2021 – Jul. 2022), each member will perform the following Environmental Stewardship services for their respective 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 stewards to be 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

- 30 biological and visual assessments conducted to monitor local freshwater streams.
- 5 Floater assessments to collect data for other environmental organizations.
- 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 a 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 and living Stipend. Living Stipend up to \$16,000 will be evenly distributed bi-weekly, over the 10-month term of service. Segal education award of up to \$6,345 upon completion of 1700 hrs. <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/segal-ameri-corps-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: Teamwork, Environment, General Skills, Computers/Technology, Community Organization, Leadership, Writing/Editing, Teaching/Tutoring, Public Speaking, Event Planning, Time Management.

Special Note related to service during COVID-19 pandemic:

Members who are applying for AmeriCorps positions during the 2021-2022 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 for future education or career aspirations.

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