

## AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors

### Position Summary:

#### (Contingent upon receiving grant funding)

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) seeks 20 Watershed Ambassadors to promote watershed stewardship in each of New Jersey's 20 watershed management areas through education, partnership projects and stream assessments.

**Service Hours:** Members serve full-time (40 hours per week) from September through mid-July, to complete the required 1700 hours of service.

**Living Stipend:** The standard living allowance for all full-time AmeriCorps members during the 2018-2019 term is \$13,732 and is taxable. The program also provides mileage reimbursement at the rate of \$0.31/mile.

**Housing:** The Program does not provide housing. Members are assigned to serve at a Host Agency located within reasonable commuting distance of their residence (See Host Agency Locations link on the Homepage). Non-NJ residents are encouraged to research housing options for affordability (or make arrangements to live with family) and email the program manager at [Amanda.Lotto@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lotto@dep.nj.gov) to make their location preference known for watershed assignment.

**Segal Education Award:** AmeriCorps members are eligible for a Segal Education Award after successful completion of their service. The award for the 2018-2019 term is \$5,920. For more information, search the AmeriCorps website at: Segal Education Award [here](#).

**Loan Forbearance:** Applied to qualified (public) loans. Interest accrued is paid for by the National Service Trust.

**Health Insurance:** Many of our members (up to age 26) elect to remain on their parents' health insurance plans, however the program does offer a limited Health Benefit Insurance Plan, including dental and child care benefits.

**Professional Development:** Members of the NJ Watershed Ambassador Program are supported by NJDEP staff and Host Agency staff. In addition, other non-profit organizations, and Rutgers University are resources for training. You will leave the NJWAP with strong, transferable skills in scientific data collection and analysis (ArcGIS training, macro ID and visual/biological assessment protocol); education and outreach (principles of environmental education, PROJECT WET certification); presentation and networking (conferences/workshops); and project management. You will also develop skills in relationship building and professionalism in the workplace, while developing confidence for "Life After AmeriCorps."

**Community:** The NJ Watershed Ambassador Program provides a great opportunity for its members to grow in a supportive community of peers who are passionate about the environment. Serving a term is challenging, but the comradery developed with fellow Ambassadors as well as relationships formed within each watershed community will support and

enrich your overall experience! Becoming part of the “AmeriCorps Family” will also inspire you to become a more engaged citizen.

**Responsibilities:** Members will be responsible for working closely with communities to promote watershed stewardship. The position includes field work (conducting stream assessments); community projects (ex. cleanups, tree plantings, rain barrel workshops); and education outreach (presentations given to students, scout and community groups, etc.)

**Requirements:**

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S., have a bachelor's degree (any field of study), a valid driver's license, and reliable transportation for field work and meetings. Candidates must be motivated by a genuine interest in the environmental field and a strong desire to serve.

**Orientation:**

Following DEP On-boarding Day in Trenton, NJ on September 6th, 2018, Ambassadors are required to attend 8 days of intensive (9 am – 9 pm) training at the beginning of the Program to prepare for their term of service (food/ lodging provided).

- 4 days at **Stokes State Forest- September 11th - 14th, 2018**
- 4 days at **Parvin State Park- September 24th -27th, 2018**