The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program is a community-oriented AmeriCorps program designed to raise awareness about water issues in New Jersey. The NJDEP began hosting this AmeriCorps program in 2000. AmeriCorps is a national service initiative. Through this program, Watershed Ambassadors are placed at local host sites in twenty (20) Watershed Management Areas (WMAs) from Sussex to Cape May counties to serve their local communities. Three (3) Source Water Protection (SWP) Ambassadors are placed in north, central, and south locations and will engage in outreach and education campaigns that will lead to the protection of drinking water sources. The program works 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. SWP Ambassadors will focus on increasing public knowledge and awareness of sources of drinking water, drinking water quality and water conservation.

Watershed Ambassadors are available to make FREE environmental education presentations to community organizations and schools. These interactive presentations provide information about water issues in New Jersey. Watershed Ambassadors educate students and citizens about watersheds and encourage them to get involved in local stewardship actions such as picking up after pets, conserving water, installing rain gardens, or volunteering for a stream cleanup. Watershed Ambassadors also assess the local rivers and streams using both visual and biological assessment protocols. Through an online database, this assessment data is provided to the NJDEP and is also available to the public. For education specific to drinking water, drinking water quality, and water conservation, contact your region’s SWP Ambassador.

For people interested in learning about their local streams, members are available to train local volunteers and students in these stream monitoring techniques, as well as other environmental stewardship initiatives. To schedule a presentation or to learn about environmental stewardship, please contact the New Jersey Watershed Ambassador listed for your area on the Member Information Page of this sheet!

For more information about the program, please contact Amanda Baksa, Program Manager, at Amanda.Baksa@dep.nj.gov or (609) 777-1406

AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program
http://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/americorps.htm

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WMA 2: Wallkill  
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WMA 3: Pompton, Wanaque, Ramapo & Pequannock  
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The New Weis Center for Education  
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WMA 4: Lower Passaic & Saddle  
**Vacant**
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WMA 6: Upper Passaic, Whippany & Rockaway  
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WMA 9: Lower Raritan, South & Lawrence Rivers  
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WMA 19: Rancocas  
**Vacant**
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WMA 20: Assiscunk, Crosswicks & Doctors  
**Vacant**
Mercer County Parks Commission/ Tulpehaking Nature Center  
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**Source Water Protection (SWP) Ambassadors**  
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