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**TERRACORPS**

***Formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps (Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow)*  
  
2017 Community Engagement Coordinator Position Opening   
with Groundwork Southcoast**

**TerraCorps**, formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, is an innovative national service program working to help communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals. We seek to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. This year, TerraCorps will support 36 members who will serve with partner organizations across Massachusetts. For more information, visit [terracorps.org](http://www.terracorps.org).

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit [americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

**The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA,** [mass-service.org](http://www.mass-service.org)**)** is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA’s mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.

**AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

This year’s TerraCorps program will run from August 28, 2017 through July 27, 2018. Allmembers are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire eleven-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and service with the full TerraCorps team. Weekly service averages 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

Applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

* A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
* At least 18 years old
* A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
* No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
* Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorpswill recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

**Member Compensation and Benefits**

* TerraCorps members will receive a living allowance of $12,530 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is $522.08 per 24 biweekly pay periods.
* TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Reimbursement of costs may be available.
* Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
* Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a $5,815 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See [nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward](http://nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward) for info and restrictions.
* TerraCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
* TerraCorps members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
* TerraCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service   
  and community engagement.

**Note:** TerraCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

**Positions**

The 2017 TerraCorps program will support thirty-six full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of four positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Conservation Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), and Youth Education Coordinator (YEC). The positions differ in their focus on community engagement and organization, land access, conservation and stewardship, and youth or adult education. All members will carry out capacity building projects; educate or train individuals; recruit, train, manage, and support community volunteers engaged in land-based activities; and identify new individuals and groups to participate in education, recreation, or service opportunities centered around land access and conservation. All positions include computer-based administrative and reporting duties. The specific responsibilities and goals of members in each position differ as described below.

Groundwork Southcoast will host a Community Engagement Coordinator for the 2017-18 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at [terracorps.org](http://www.mountgrace.org/americorps-masslift).

**2017 Community Engagement Coordinator Position Opening   
with Groundwork Southcoast**

**Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust**

1461 Old Keene Road  
Athol, MA 01331

[mountgrace.org](http://mountgrace.org/)

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust (Mount Grace) was incorporated in 1986 to protect significant natural, agricultural and scenic areas and to encourage land stewardship in North Central and Western Massachusetts for the benefit of the environment, the economy, and future generations. Mount Grace has facilitated the protection of nearly 31,000 acres of land in a 23-town region. Mount Grace specializes in landscape-scale, collaborative efforts that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Massachusetts land conservation efforts.

Groundwork Southcoast was launched in 2017 and is working in two specific communities: The Flint neighborhood in Fall River and the Acushnet Ave neighborhood in New Bedford. This is an exciting time to determine how to apply the mission of Groundwork to these two communities: to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.

**Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC)** build the long-term capacity of their host sites by developing culturally inclusive systems, programing, partnerships, and events. By collaborating with community groups, CEC’s demonstrate how the sustainable use and conservation of land can help address community needs related to education, public health, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, homelessness, poverty, hunger, and cultural decline. By helping a broader cross-section of people experience the benefits of open space, CECs build connections between land and people that increase public support for land access, revitalization, and conservation initiatives.

CECs may partner with homeless shelters or food pantries to build community gardens; hospitals to build wellness gardens and walking paths, neighborhood groups to revitalize urban parks and greenways; farmers markets to increase community access to locally grown food; disability groups to create wheelchair accessible outings; youth and adult groups to inspire artistic expression; public health programs to support recovery; and any underrepresented community groups who want to provide access to the outdoors for recreational and entertainment purposes. By engaging with diverse peoples and collaborating with community partners, CEC’s build bridges that reinforce the connection between land and a sustainable social, economic, and environmental future for all people.

TerraCorps members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. [Groundwork Southcoast] has proposed the following potential project for their Community Engagement Coordinator:

1. Estabilish and deepen exisiting relationships with residents in both communities, with a particular focus on working to engage the most marginalized in order to increase use of parks, trails and other outdoor spaces through outreach, programming and beautification projects.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member’s interests and skills.

Essential Qualifications:

* + high school diploma and relevant experience
  + a strong interest in serving with diverse community groups, landowners, and municipalities
  + comfortable presenting in front of groups
  + strong writing, communication, and networking skills
  + able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
  + familiarity with Microsoft Office programs

Desired Qualifications:

* + associates degree or higher and/or certificate, training, or internship in a field related to environmental and social justice, environmental education, environmental policy and civic advocacy, social marketing and communication, or other social science related fields.
  + experience in community needs assessment
  + experience with diversity and inclusion issues
  + experience training and managing volunteers
  + experience in local government, or civic organizations
  + marketing experience or experience developing public information materials
  + familiarity with land conservation in Massachusetts
  + experience with service learning programs

For questions about Groundwork Southcoast’s service positions, contact …… Maura Ramsey at: [mramsey@groundworksouthcoast.org](mailto:mramsey@groundworksouthcoast.org) or 508.974.3535

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**How to Apply**

2017-2018 Host Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

A complete member application includes a 1page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at [terracorps.org](http://terracorps.org).

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our host sites. Do not send applications directly to a host site.

We strongly encourage application submissions before interviews begin in mid-April**.** Position offers and acceptances will begin shortly thereafter. The program aims to fill all positions by early June, but host sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled.

For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps’ recruitment process, at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Email [admin@masslift.org](mailto:admin@masslift.org) or call 978-248-2043.