

Position Description

675 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Frenchtown Pond & Council Grove State Parks:
Missoula, MT



Term of service: April 10, 2017 – August 11, 2017

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 685 hours over an 18 week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 40 hours of “Time not served” to be used as holiday, vacation or sick time in addition to regularly scheduled weekends.

Position Summary:

This AmeriCorps member will conduct activities that will enhance community outreach and build community support at two popular day-use state parks near Missoula, Montana. This project includes: coordinating educational and interpretive programs and collaborating in all special events at both parks; collaborating with local schools and non-profits in land improvement projects including riverbank stabilization projects and noxious weed pulls; updating PowerPoint programs for both parks for presentations to local groups and civic organizations; and conducting targeted outreach activities to community, civic, school and youth groups.

Council Grove and Frenchtown Pond are highly visited state parks located west of Missoula, MT. Council Grove SP has a cultural emphasis, marking the location of the council site for the signing of the 1855 Hellgate Treaty. Frenchtown Pond is a recreational park, featuring water access for non-motorized boating, swimming and group activities. The AmeriCorps member will share an office space in the regional Headquarters building in Missoula.

Housing for AmeriCorps members may be available at Travelers’ Rest Park (in Lolo, MT; 12 miles south of Missoula). A nominal rental fee may be required.

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below in order to ensure that they do not displace workers or take part in any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations. Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve park land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program



Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Improve park land
 - Collaborate with local schools and non-profit groups in developing small riverbank stabilization projects such as vegetation plantings and weed pulls at Council Grove State Park.
 - Investigate cost-share grant funding opportunities for larger-scale riverbank stabilization projects at Council Grove State Park.
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
 - Coordinate a series of summer-season, educational and park interpretive programs at both parks. Target series programs to local constituencies through marketing efforts.
 - Collaborate with local schools and non-profit groups holding special events at both parks; facilitate outreach to local community school districts.
- Increase volunteer capacity
 - Organize volunteer resource management projects, including National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day.
 - Collaborate with local schools and non-profit groups holding special events at both parks where a public service project is typically part of the event.
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
 - Conduct targeted outreach to community, civic, school and youth groups.
 - Update PowerPoint programs for both Parks, for presentation to local groups and civic organizations.
 - The AmeriCorps member would represent both Frenchtown Pond and Council Grove State Parks at two or more area festivals or events (Local Farmer's and Community Markets, Kid's & Schools Festivals, Community events such as e.g., Missoula's River City Roots Festival).

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's state parks
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass the requirements of the National Service Criminal History Check

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$4,050 over 18 week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$2,200 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Guaranteed health benefits and child care assistance if qualified
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana State Parks

To Apply:

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps only accepts applications through the my.americorps.gov portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within my.americorps.gov. Please note, there is only one application for all of our 1700 hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of State Parks. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.