

# Position Description

## 1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

### Location: Lone Pine State Park

### Land Improvement Specialist



**Term of service:** January 17, 2022 – November 17, 2023

**Service schedule:** Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44-week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 80 hours of “Time Not Scheduled to Serve” to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

#### **Position Summary:**

Lone Pine State Park, located just outside of Kalispell, provides many recreation and educational opportunities for locals and visitors traveling through the area, just an hour from Glacier National Park. The park has an interactive visitor center, exceptional scenic overlooks, a public archery range, and over seven miles of hiking/mountain biking and horse-riding trails. The Lone Pine District includes Thompson Falls State Park and Lake Mary Ronan State Park, which also have several miles of trails, along with camping and lake access.

This position will focus on incorporating land improvement and thoughtful portrayal of park natural resources into each AmeriCorps program objective. With heavy trail use and ongoing efforts to curb the spread of noxious weeds, the Lone Pine district has many land improvement issues to address. From trail maintenance and weeds pulling to coordinating volunteer trail crews and working with Montana Conservation Corps, this role of Trails Specialist will take part in many aspects of land improvement in the Lone Pine District. On top of the resource-focused work, this member will assist with interpretive programs for the general public and lead a minimum of one educational fieldtrip each week in the spring and fall, finding creative ways to connect visitors to the natural spaces of the park. This position will also oversee recruiting and monitoring our Trail Stewards for the 2022 season.

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below 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:**

- **Expand educational and interpretive programs**
  - Focus on educational opportunities and interpretive programs that connect visitors to the land and natural resources of the park.
  - Coordinate programming that focuses on land improvement, noxious weeds mitigation, and the cultural and natural history of the parks.
  - Work with county weeds organizations and other local environmental groups to develop programming that engages the public with resource management issues in the parks and the region.
  - Continue the development of Park Rx resources for local healthcare offices, allowing area providers to prescribe outdoor recreation for patients.
  - Assist with leading field trips a minimum of one day each week in the spring and fall.
- **Improve Park Land**
  - Trail monitoring and maintenance on the 7.5 miles of trails at Lone Pine State Park, trails and riverfront at Thompson Falls State Park, and the 2.5 miles of trails at Lake Mary Ronan. This will include minor reroutes, addition and maintenance of trail drainage, weeds mitigation, and brush clearing.
  - Further our disease tree research and monitoring for all three parks.
  - Assist with shoreline restoration at Foy's Lake.
  - Help with implementing the trail signage update at Lone Pine.
  - Work on efforts to mitigate noxious weed spread and social trail development across parks.
  - Schedule regular volunteer work days to continue land improvement efforts.
  - Coordinate events in conjunction with national service days for trails work and land improvement.
- **Increase volunteer capacity**
  - Recruit and work alongside Lone Pine State Park volunteers.
  - Participate in job fairs at the local Community College.
  - Work with other partners in the community on projects in the park.
  - Hike in the park and interact with regular visitors to recruit them for our Trail Stewardship Program.
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks**
  - Monitor and add updates to the park Facebook and Instagram accounts, developing informal teachable moments on both platforms.

- Do quarterly radio spots discussing park projects and AmeriCorps contributions to the community.
- Tabling at local farmers markets and festivals.

### **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

### **Physical and Environmental Demands:**

- Work is performed in both an indoor and outdoor environment.
- Frequently works in adverse outdoor conditions including temperature extremes, snow and rain, dust, and mosquito infested areas.
- Works with public and may inform public of site rules and regulations.
- May be required to lift over 25lbs across rugged terrain.
- The position may require some travel. The incumbent will be required to work odd hours, weekends, and holidays.

### **Benefits:**

- Living allowance of \$19,538 over 44-week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$6,495 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 childcare 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](https://my.americorps.gov) portal. To apply, you can follow the link [HERE](#) to our application within [my.americorps.gov](https://my.americorps.gov). Please note, there is only one application for all of our 1715- hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

**Application Deadline:**

Applications are due by December 12, 2022.

\* 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.*