

Position Description

1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Position: Recreation Steward

Location: Giant Springs State Park - Great Falls, Montana



Term of service: January 19, 2027 – November 19, 2027

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44-week term, averaging 40 hours per week with 60 hours of “Time Not Scheduled to Serve” to be used as sick, vacation, or other personal leave.

Position Summary:

Located along the Missouri River in Great Falls, Giant Springs offers an exceptional outdoor classroom where natural history, wildlife, fisheries, geology, recreation, conservation, and Montana history come together. The park encompasses river frontage, wildlife habitat, historic and cultural resources, recreational areas, and more than 30 miles of paved and natural-surface trails. The park also connects directly with Great Falls’ larger River’s Edge Trail system. These resources make Giant Springs an ideal setting for learning about subjects ranging from aquatic ecology and geology to wildlife, fisheries, conservation, Montana history, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The Education Specialist will help turn these resources into engaging programs that connect people with the park and the surrounding landscape. The primary focus of this position will be developing and leading curriculum-aligned school field trips, while also assisting with interpretive tours, public programs, special events, and community outreach. This is an excellent opportunity for someone interested in environmental education, parks, conservation, natural resources, history, or outdoor recreation who wants hands-on professional experience while spending a service term in one of Montana’s most recreation-rich regions.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and 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 Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

Select any or all of the options listed as it applies to your service site:

- Improve FWP land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks



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- 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 FWP Land**
 - Support land enhancement projects such as tree planting, landscaping, and general maintenance to improve park aesthetics and educational value
 - Assist with invasive species management through weed mapping, mechanical removal, spraying, and biological control efforts
 - Collaborate with local conservation groups (e.g., Audubon Society) to improve wildlife habitat
 - Conduct trail assessments and perform trail maintenance
 - Recruit, train, and coordinate volunteers for land improvement initiatives
- **Expand educational and interpretive programs**
 - Strengthen relationships with local and regional school districts; deliver in-person, virtual, and on-site programs
 - Develop and lead curriculum-aligned field trips for area schools and youth organizations around wildlife, fisheries, aquatic ecosystems, geology, water, plants, conservation, history, and the Missouri River.
 - Create lesson plans, teacher resources, student activities, and hands-on educational materials.
 - Expand the Junior Ranger program by developing new activities and increasing participation
 - Create family-friendly activities to enhance visitor engagement
 - Design and implement an interpretive program focused on the native plant garden or another area of the member's interest
- **Increase volunteer capacity**
 - Identify and connect with local businesses and organizations for potential service partnerships
 - Develop and manage a volunteer scheduling system to align volunteer efforts with park needs
 - Implement volunteer recognition strategies (e.g., branded merchandise, appreciation events, facility access)
 - Build relationships with local trail and recreation groups to foster long-term collaboration
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks**
 - Identify and connect with local businesses and organizations for potential service partnerships
 - Develop and manage a volunteer scheduling system to align volunteer efforts with park needs
 - Implement volunteer recognition strategies (e.g., branded merchandise, appreciation events, facility access)

- Build relationships with local trail and recreation groups to foster long-term collaboration Strengthen existing community partnerships through collaborative local events and initiatives
- Coordinate with local media outlets to promote park events and programs
- Manage and grow the park's social media presence with engaging content and timely updates
- Provide visitors with accurate park information, directions, and assistance with available services.

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 public lands.
- 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

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks AmeriCorps 2027 Required Trainings and Events (subject to change):

- January 19: First Day of Service
- January 27-29: Member Orientation; Helena
- March 1-5: Certified Interpretive Guide Training; Montana Wild (Helena)
- March 17-19: Annual Serve Montana Symposium; Helena
- June 15-18: All Member Gathering
- July 16-19: Bannack Days; Bannack State Park
- September 3-5: Day of Honor; Chief Plenty Coups State Park
- November 18-19: Close of Service; Helena

Physical and Environmental Demands:

- Service is performed in both an indoor and outdoor environment.
- Frequently serves in adverse outdoor conditions including temperature extremes, snow and rain, dust, and mosquito infested areas.
- Serves 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 serve odd hours, weekends, and holidays.

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$512.00/week (taxed)
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$7,395.00 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 Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

To Apply:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and 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 our 1715- hour positions, placement preference will be assessed during the interview process.

Application Deadline:

Applications are due by January 8, 2027, or until all positions are filled.

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of Parks & Outdoor Recreation and the Communication/Education Divisions. 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 Fish, Wildlife and 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.