

Position Description

1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Position: Education Specialist

Location: Lone Pine State Park – Kalispell, 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:

Lone Pine and Lake Mary Ronan State Parks, located just outside Kalispell, welcomes more than 170,000 visitors annually and provide exceptional outdoor classrooms for connecting people with Montana’s natural resources. Lone Pine State park includes an interactive Visitor Center, scenic overlooks, public archery range, and more than seven miles of hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trails. Lake Mary Ronan State Park has over 2 miles of trails, camping, and water-based recreation.

The primary function of the **Education Specialist** is to expand educational opportunities for youth, families, and visitors through hands-on programs that explore the wildlife, history, geology, ecology, archaeology, and natural resources of Northwestern Montana. The member will primarily serve public and private school groups and homeschool groups, lead Junior Ranger and other youth programs, and develop age-appropriate educational activities and interpretive resources for the Visitor Center. The member may also recruit presenters from around the state or local community to provide specialized programs or lead hikes.

The member will build relationships with educators, youth organizations, volunteers, and community partners and increase awareness of the park’s educational opportunities through school and community outreach, partner networks, event promotion, and other appropriate communication channels. The member will also support volunteer stewardship and hands-on projects that provide opportunities to connect education with caring for public lands.

This position is primarily focused on **school, homeschool, and youth education**, complementing the Program Specialist’s focus on **broad public engagement, interpretation, and community programming**.

During the school year, the position will primarily serve during weekday school hours to accommodate field trips and other education programs, with at least one weekend day of service each week and occasional evening programs or special events. During the summer, the schedule will shift to include more weekend and evening programs. Following evening



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campground programs at the district's other parks, the member may choose to camp at those parks when appropriate.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- **Improve FWP lands** through hands-on trail monitoring and maintenance, participation in seasonal stewardship projects, and volunteer trail workdays that teach participants how to care for and improve public lands.
- **Expand educational and interpretive programs** through school and homeschool field trips, Junior Ranger programs, youth outreach, and self-directed educational opportunities at the Visitor Center.
- **Increase volunteer capacity** by identifying, recruiting, training, and working alongside volunteers who support educational programs, youth activities, special events, and stewardship projects.
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of Montana's natural and cultural resources, responsible outdoor recreation, and state park educational opportunities** through schools, community organizations, partner networks, events, and other appropriate communication channels.
- **Participate in service activities**, including National Days of Service and other FWP or community volunteer events.
- **Respond to disasters**, when called upon to do so by the program.

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- **Improve FWP Land.**
 - Conduct trail monitoring and hands-on trail maintenance at Lone Pine State Park, Lake Mary Ronan and other FWP sites as appropriate.
 - Participate in trail stewardship projects and volunteer workdays, helping volunteers learn appropriate trail maintenance techniques and understand the resource-management principles behind the work.
 - Assist with seasonal stewardship projects, such as invasive-plant management and other land-improvement activities, as appropriate.
 - Use hands-on stewardship projects as opportunities to build the member's understanding of sustainable trail management, conservation practices, and responsible recreation.
- **Expand educational and interpretive programs.**
 - Coordinate and lead spring and fall field trips for area public and private schools and homeschool groups, working with educators to meet age and learning needs.
 - Develop and lead hands-on outdoor education programs that connect students with wildlife, ecology, conservation, and Montana's natural and cultural resources.
 - Lead summer Junior Ranger programs and other youth education programs.
 - Develop and improve age-appropriate educational activities and program materials based on seasonal topics and FWP priorities.

- Develop a new educational theme each month for the Visitor Center, including self-directed activities for children ages 2–12 and a corresponding entrance display.
- Recruit guest presenters, local experts, and community partners when specialized knowledge or programming would enhance educational opportunities.
- Participate in school and community outreach events that introduce youth and families to Lone Pine’s educational opportunities.
- **Increase volunteer capacity.**
 - Identify meaningful volunteer opportunities that support youth education, Visitor Center activities, special events, and stewardship projects.
 - Recruit, orient, train, and work alongside volunteers supporting educational programs and special events.
 - Build relationships with educators, youth organizations, and community partners that can expand volunteer and educational opportunities.
- **Enhance outreach and awareness.**
 - Promote educational programs, youth opportunities, and natural-resource learning through schools, community organizations, libraries, events, partner networks, and other appropriate communication channels.
 - Develop simple educational and promotional materials that encourage families and visitors to continue learning about Montana’s natural resources.
 - Engage visitors, families, educators, and community members in informal conversations about FWP programs, conservation, and responsible recreation.

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.