

Position Description

1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Position: Education Specialist

Location: Makoshika State Park – Glendive, 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:

Makoshika State Park is Montana’s largest state park at almost 12,000 acres and receives about 100,000 visitors per year. The park has a visitor center, campground, amphitheater, two group use shelters, 17 designated hiking trails, two-disc golf courses, and plenty of amazing views and vistas of the Montana badlands. Makoshika State Park also has a paleontology lab and is known worldwide for its dinosaur fossils. Nine species of dinosaur fossils have been found in the park including Tyrannosaurs Rex and Triceratops. Makoshika State Park is rich in geological, biological, cultural and historical resources. Makoshika is considered a destination park that hosts many educational field trips and interpretive programs and has volunteer programs in place that would be the higher priorities for the member, as well as serving as a liaison for park volunteers and the non-profit Friends of Makoshika group.

Educational and interpretive programs at Makoshika State Park have increased and are always ongoing. The Education Specialist AmeriCorps member will work with the rangers, volunteers and the administrative assistant presenting STEM and other educational programs. The park offers trunk programs that can be taken to students in the classroom setting or used for students who visit the park. These trunks can also be improved by the member to keep up with new advances in science areas. The STEM programs have been very popular, and the AmeriCorps member will carry on the success of the programs. The park saw about 700 students through various programs and events, such as field trips, scout groups, and the summer youth program. The member will also help coordinate our summer youth program series which gets children and adults outside during the summer months. We average about 25-30 children per program, and the AmeriCorps member will be instrumental in leading and/or supporting those programs to make them successful. The educational programs are always interactive and most take place outside. The AmeriCorps member will also help plan and implement educational components for programs such as Dinosaur Day, Kids to Park Day, National Fossil Day, Earth Day, National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day, and any other holiday programs as they arise. Makoshika State Park has also become involved in NASP (National Archery in Schools Program), and the AmeriCorps member will be able to help with those programs and become certified as an instructor. The local middle school in Glendive



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started in NASP a couple years ago and park staff help teach archery to the 6th--8th graders for a week in the spring and fall. Medicine Rocks State Parks co-hosts a dinosaur event with the nearby county museum that the AmeriCorps will help host and implement a hike/talk during the event. Other educational and interpretive programs that the member will be involved with include but are not limited to; tabling events, pop-up interpretive hikes, full moon hikes, bat hikes, trivia in the park, Wild Montana Wilderness hikes in Makoshika and Medicine Rocks, as well as off-site events. These types of programs can see up to 1,000 participants.

This is a great opportunity to work at one of Montana's destination parks. The member will have the opportunity to develop skills such as being a self-starter and a leader within the park staff, the community and volunteers. The member will not only have the opportunity to grow professionally, but personally as well.

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
- 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**
 - The member may be asked to help the other member at the site, (i.e. Region 7 Recreation Steward) park staff, and volunteers to do some trail maintenance and/or weed mitigation.
- **Expand educational and interpretive programs**
 - Serve with rangers, volunteers and the administrative assistant with presenting educational curriculum and STEM programs for field trip, home-school groups, scouts etc.
 - Participate in data collection of educational programs for program evaluation
 - Create lesson plans for programs and trunk offerings
 - Support and create lesson plans for our weekly summer youth program
 - Set up and present tabling programs within the park and the community

- Present a table activity for the annual Dinos and MOR at one of our Dinosaur Trail partners, Museum of the Rockies
- Create new educational programs; updating education trunk lesson plans, pop-up programs, tabling events, and interpretive hikes.
- **Increase volunteer capacity**
 - Set up and coordinate projects with community service volunteers to be completed, coming up with projects for them to do and why they are important
 - Recruit volunteers through community events such as Dawson Community College Events, Dawson County Fair, Farmer's Market, etc.
 - Interacting and supporting *Friends of Makoshika*, a non-profit group that helps with events and fundraising for the park.
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of State Parks and the AmeriCorps Program**
 - Attending the local Farmer's Market and making connections with community members and helping them gain awareness of the state park and its offerings
 - Tabling activities within the community; Dawson County Fair, DCC Events, Crazy day, Dinosaurs and MOR, etc.
 - Serve to increase awareness of park events in the local communities by going door-to-door of businesses to distribute posters of events and programs that are offered
 - Helping the *Friends of Makoshika* at Dawson Community College
 - Continue to coordinate with staff to develop and plan the Makoshika Music & Arts event, bringing community members together for a music and arts event in the park; musicians, vendors, artists, businesses, etc.

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.