

Position Description

1715 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Position: Recreation Steward

Location: Region 7 | 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:

This is a great opportunity to work at one of Montana’s destination parks. The position will provide the member with an opportunity to be a self-starter and a leader within the park staff, the community, and among volunteers. The member will have the opportunity to grow professionally and personally.

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 shelters, 17 designated hiking trails that total close to 20 miles, two-disc golf courses, with amazing views of the Montana badlands. Makoshika is considered a destination park with the priority areas for the member being focused on its large trail system, noxious weed concerns, and volunteer programs. Makoshika has 17 trails with about 20 miles of hiking. The member will serve as a liaison for park volunteers and the *Friends of Makoshika* group, recruiting, and organizing volunteers to help with the noxious weed concerns. Members will engage with the existing volunteer Stewardship Crew (i.e. Stew Crew) for weed management activities throughout the spring and summer. In July of 2025, Makoshika State Park sustained a fire. There will be opportunities for the member to assist with re-seeding or improvement of the sites to prepare them for future use. The erosion of the land as well as foliage growth allows for a significant amount of trail work. There are also some infrastructures such as benches, bridges, and a historical cabin that will need upkeep.

While based at Makoshika State Park, the AmeriCorps member will also serve the larger Region 7 State Parks, which includes Medicine Rocks, Pirogue Island, Rosebud Battlefield, and Tongue River Reservoir State Parks. Erosion and damage to trails and noxious weed mitigation are always ongoing. The member will help Region 7 parks and their lands move forward into the future and make them even more desirable places for visitors to recreate in. The AmeriCorps member will support staff by helping pull weeds and releasing biological control to curb the leafy spurge epidemic as well as the larger noxious weed concerns. Over the years, there have been several beetle releases. The member will be able to monitor the beetle collection and



possibly sweep for them within the park, and/or sweep at a local collection spot and add new releases.

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**
 - Assist staff and volunteers with pulling weeds
 - Assist staff and volunteers with releasing biological control to help with leafy spurge and other noxious weeds
 - Assist rangers with Adopt-A-Trail program.
 - Serving with trail crews that come (e.g. NCCC, American Hiking Association, Wild Montana, or other AmeriCorps members)
 - Continue the Stew Crew (Stewardship Crew of volunteers to help improve park land through trail work or weed mitigation)
 - Continue to improve the trails in the park by widening them, clearing brush, installing steps and water bars, and fixing signs
 - Helping Region 7 staff at other parks, Fishing Access Sites (FAS), and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) with land improvements
 - Develop land improvement projects for Earth Day, National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day, etc
- **Expand educational and interpretive programs**
 - The Recreation Steward may be asked to help the Education Specialist, park staff, and volunteers to do some education and interpretive programming
- **Increase volunteer capacity**
 - Set up and coordinate projects with community service volunteers to be completed.
 - Recruit volunteers through community events such as Dawson Community College Events, Dawson County Fair, Farmer's Market, etc.

- Continue with and improve the Stew Crew and Adopt-A-Trail program by recruiting more volunteers
- Working with a local family, the Stahlmans to come up with service projects for their mission groups to complete
- Recruit at least two new volunteers from the community
- **Enhance outreach and awareness of State Parks and the AmeriCorps Program**
 - Continue going to the 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
 - 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.
 - Helping the *Friends of Makoshika* at Dawson Community College

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.